

King, Crown Prince stress that Jordan's initiative to help Bosnians motivated by pure humanitarian considerations

H.M.: Economic benefits of peace will be realised in 3-5 years

Prince Hassan urges cooperation for development of region

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter



His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Monday talk to representatives

members of the Security Council that the continuation of the "situation represents an insult to the world, to humanity and to human values."

The King said that Jordan will "do all that it can" to help alleviate the suffering of the Bosnian people.

"Refugee camps in (Bosnia) shock the world and brought back to memory images of the Holocaust," said Prince Hassan, who last week flew to former Yugoslavia in a joint Jordanian-Israeli relief mission to Bosnia.

Prince Hassan, who said that Muslims and Jews have been victims of the aggression in

Sarajevo, said the crimes committed in the war in former Yugoslavia are "a reminder of the legends of the middle ages."

The degree of hatred cannot be described," said Prince Hassan, who stressed that the only interest Jordan has in the Balkans is humanitarian.

Prince Hassan said a political solution to the conflict is the most effective way of dealing with it, adding that "the facts on the ground are not encouraging for an outside military intervention" outside the framework of the United Nations and other international bodies set up to deal with the conflict.

of the local press during a meeting at the residence of Prince Hassan (Petra photo)

Prince Hassan warned against the escalation of hostilities in the Balkan region, adding that "all parties will lose" if the conflict is allowed to expand to other areas of the Balkans.

"We have for years urged the establishment of an international "zakat" fund that could have been used to help Muslims all over the world," the Crown Prince said. He said all Arabs and Muslims would have been more effective in extending help to their co-religionists had this fund been set up.

Prince Hassan spoke of the renewed European interest in the western Mediterranean re

gion and urged a pooling of efforts to improve the quality of life in the area.

"We are at a point when we either enter a new era of fighting or go forward with the serious political initiative to protect the well-being and dignity of the people," the Crown Prince said.

During the meeting, the King and the Crown Prince addressed inter-Arab relations, the peace process, the economic situation in the Kingdom and efforts to realize the economic dividend of peace.

(Continued on page 7)

Premier sends condolences to Hariri

BEIRUT (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Monday delegated Jordan's Ambassador in Beirut Fahri Abu Taleb to condole Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Al Hariri over the death of his mother, Hind Ali Al Haj. The deceased was laid to rest in Sidon Monday afternoon.

Court sentences 4 Islamists

CAIRO (AP) — A court sentenced a Muslim militant to life in prison and three others to 15 years of hard labour Monday for trying to blow up a busload of Korean tourists in 1993. Four others charged in the case were found innocent. The eight men were arrested after militants threw a car packed with explosives in front of a tourist bus on the way to the pyramids in February 1993. There were no injuries in the attack. Militants have targeted tourists, one of Egypt's main sources of foreign currency, in their attempt to rain Egypt's economy and bring down the government. More than 780 people, including eight tourists, have died since militants began their campaign in 1992.

Russian court backs Yeltsin

MOSCOW (R) — Russia's constitutional court on Monday backed President Boris Yeltsin's decision to send troops into Chechnya to crush its drive for independence. The ruling critics said carried political overtones. The court distanced itself from the human rights implications of the decision, which unleashed seven months of war which killed and maimed thousands of civilians and combatants and created wave after wave of refugees. But it said parts of an accompanying government decree on deportations of suspected troublemakers and rules for journalists covering the conflict were anti-constitutional. The ruling follows weeks of deliberations by the 19-member court.

Croats and Serbs trade artillery shells, rockets

two towns and another too general has been placed in charge of retaking the area. The Krajina Serb pledges followed a visit to Knin by Mr. Akashi. He returned with a six point "plan" which included U.N. monitoring of the border region and the Serb withdrawal.

Attempting to pressure breakaway Serbs holding territory in Croatia, regular Croatian (HV) and Bosnian Croat (HVO) forces fired artillery and mortar shells against RSK (Krajina Serb) border villages on the weekend and Monday. Chris Vernon, a U.N. spokesman, said Monday.

U.N. officials said Monday some Krajina Serb troops had left Bihać but only "small groups" and no armour or vehicles had been seen leaving.

Serb forces in Bosnia responded with a "violent" bombardment of Bosansko Grahovo and Glamoč, the two Serb towns in southwest Bosnia that fell to the Croats Friday wounding one Croat soldier and a civilian, an HVO official said.

The clashes came as U.N. special envoy Yasushi Akashi said he was "pessimistic" of the chances of avoiding "a lot of bloodshed" in Croatia where there has been an uneasy peace for three years.

In an unusual display of cooperation to defuse tensions, Krajina Serbs pledged Sunday to withdraw troops from another part of Bosnia where they have conducted an offensive against Bosnian government troops defending the Bihać enclave.

Zagreb, fearing the fall of enclave to the Serbs, punched through Serb defences to take Grahovo which guards the backdoor to Knin, the capital of the self-declared breakaway Serb state in Croatia.

The fall of Bihać would deal a serious blow to Croatian designs on regaining territory held by the Krajina Serbs and Zagreb has said it will intervene to prevent this happening.

Bosnian Serb army chief General Ratko Mladić vowed the Croats would "pay dearly" for their seizure of the

on Bosnian radio said some "concrete decisions had been reached on how Iran might help Bosnia to overcome difficulties and to successfully resist Serb aggression."

Iran among other Muslim countries has been vocal in its support for Bosnia's Muslim and is believed to have supplied weapons and expertise to the Bosnian army.

Bosnian Serb forces have pulled out crack troops from Zepa, the former U.N. safe area to fight elsewhere in Bosnia leaving the job of smoking out the remaining government defenders to regulars.

The rotation in the enclave where Serb forces overran the town of Zepa on July 25 took place over the weekend, U.N. spokesman Alexander Ivanko said. "Why keep high quality troops in Zepa when you have problems elsewhere," asked Mr. Ivanko.

Meanwhile, NATO is making plans to respond to the fighting around the Bosnian enclave of Bihać but may not threaten massive air strikes as it did for Gorazde, U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry said Monday.

Alliance sources in Brussels said NATO's military committee had finalised plans for protecting Bihać town and the other remaining U.N. safe havens. NATO Ambassadors were to meet Tuesday or Wednesday to give their approval.

But Mr. Perry said before talks here with British Defense Secretary Michael Portillo that the ultimatum for Bihać would not necessarily be the same as the one for Gorazde, under threat by separatist Serbs in eastern Bosnia.

"I would not want to simply say that the ultimatum with respect to Gorazde is the appropriate way of doing this," the U.S. defense chief said.

In another diplomatic development, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati held talks Monday in the Croatian town of Split with Croatian and Bosnian counterparts Mate Granic and Mohammad Sacirbegović.

A joint statement carried

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — An Israeli court on Monday issued an arrest warrant against Hamas official Musa Abu Marzuk, the first legal step towards submitting a request for his extradition from the United States, Justice Minister David Libai said.

The charges against Mr. Abu Marzuk included conspiracy to commit murder and to commit manslaughter and conspiracy to inflict injury and grievous bodily harm, a ministry statement said.

"In the request, the state attorney's office indicated that it intended to appeal, without delay, to United States' authorities, and request that Abu Marzuk be temporarily detained until a request for his extradition can be submitted," the statement said.

The U.S. government said on Thursday it had arrested Musa Abu Marzuk, a political leader of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, after it found his name on the so-called "watch list" of aliens not allowed to enter the United States.

Mr. Libai said Israel had "intelligence information"

Israel, PLO work to narrow differences

Israeli troops drag settlers off W. Bank hill

EILAT, Israel (R) — Israeli and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace-makers on Monday plunged deep into negotiations on expanding Palestinian self-rule into the West Bank, trying to narrow gaps on army redeployment, elections and water rights.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Ahmed Korei said "some slow, but steady progress" was achieved in talks at Israel's Red Sea resort of Eilat on transfer of civil powers to the Palestinian Authority, one component of the complex talks.

He said both sides reviewed their positions on security matters.

"There was a presentation of both sides' final positions on security matters before

they move to formulation which will clarify each side's stand," Mr. Korei, also known as Abu Ala, said at the Israeli Red Sea resort of Eilat.

He said the gap on basic principles remained but added the sides were showing great interest in achieving a breakthrough.

Talks on the much-delayed second stage of the 1993 PLO-Israel peace deal were suspended last week after an Islamic suicide bomber killed six Israelis near Tel Aviv.

The second stage — moving Israeli troops away from West Bank Palestinian population centres and holding Palestinian elections — was to have taken place a year ago. Self-rule began in the Gaza Strip and the West

Bank town of Jericho in May 1994.

Israel had agreed to pull out its forces from six West Bank towns, but insists on keeping troops in Hebron and in many villages that are close to Jewish settlements.

Negotiators had said before Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin suspended the talks that there were 10 points of contention, including security arrangements in Palestinian villages and control of West Bank water resources.

Israel and the PLO are also at odds over where East Jerusalem's 160,000 Palestinians would vote in the elections and on who has the right to water resources in the West Bank.

Mr. Korei said delegates worked late into the night on

(Continued on page 3)

Israel issues warrant for Abu Marzuk

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — An Israeli court on Monday issued an arrest warrant for Hamas as well as for drafting and training people for attacks "including murder." He said it was difficult to translate intelligence into evidence.

Hamas leads violent opposition to the Israel-PLO peace deal. Its militants have killed scores of Israelis in suicide attacks since the 1993 accord, including six killed last week.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Israel's decision to pursue the extradition sent a message to groups like Hamas.

"The message is Israel is not afraid, it is determined to fight terrorism, to fight terrorist groups and their leaders, without mercy or hesitation," he told Israel's Army Radio.

In Gaza Strip, the Palestinian news agency Wafa quoted PLO leader Yasser Arafat's aide Marwan Kanafani as saying: "Israel's insistence on escalating the situation by officially demanding to hand over brother Musa Abu Marzuk at this particular time is not understandable."

Imad Al Falouji, a Hamas leader in Gaza, told Reuters: "The United States should think deeply not only about handing him over to Israel, but even about his arrest, because this does not serve or contribute to stability in the area.

"Hamas is using all the diplomatic, peaceful ways to put pressure on the United States to release Abu Marzuk."

Mr. Abu Marzuk's U.S. lawyer Stanley Cohen told the radio in a telephone interview: "Now it will be up to Israel to prove to the world that they have a case. We don't believe that they can, we don't believe that they will."

Mr. Abu Marzuk, an alien resident with a "green card" allowing him to live and work in the United States, is originally from the Gaza Strip. Mr. Kanafani had earlier said the Palestinian self-rule authority was ready to give him a home in Gaza.

Mr. Libai said that according to the U.S.-Israel extradition treaty, made in the 1960s, someone could be extradited only if there was proof he or she carried out

one of the crimes listed in the treaty.

The justice minister said "Terrorist activities and heading a terrorist organisation" were not on the list.

Hamas warned Washington on Monday that it will face "military operations" if Mr. Abu Marzuk is extradited to Israel.

"The detention of Abu Marzuk in an Israeli prison would push Hamas to take a firmer line and would incite the movement to carry out military operations against Israel and American interests," warned Ghazi Hamad, a senior Hamas official in Gaza.

Mr. Hamad pointed out that since Israel arrested Hamas founder and spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmad Yassin in 1989, the movement had stepped up attacks on Israel "to apply pressure for his release."

"How can the United States extradite him (Abu Marzuk) to Israel if they themselves do not have any proof to sentence him or even bring him before an American court?" Mr. Hamad asked.

Arab League urges end of sanctions on Libya

CAIRO (AP) — Arab League leader Esmael Abdel Meguid said Monday that a report possibly linking the 1988 Lockerbie bombing to Palestinians showed that there was little evidence against Libya in the case. The Guardian newspaper in London published excerpts from a document Saturday showing the U.S. State Department was warned that Palestinians were planning an attack on a PanAm airliner three weeks before the blast over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people on Dec. 21, 1988. "I personally think that what was published recently by the Guardian regarding a document proving the innocence of Libya is something which demonstrates once again the West's weak position towards Libya," said Mr. Abdel Meguid. He called for a lifting of U.N. economic sanctions imposed on Libya in 1992 because of its alleged links to terrorism. "The Arab League will continue to defend the Libyan point of view because we consider it has been indicated to international law," he added. Two Libyans have been indicted in the United States and Britain in connection with the bombing.

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Home & Middle East News

5 years on, Iraqis would like to forget Gulf war

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A bronze statue of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein greets visitors to the Saddam Tower, a 203 metre (666 feet) high edifice that is a reminder not only of who's in charge but also of a war that many Iraqis would like to forget.

At the foot of the statue are fragments of the "Smart" laser-guided bombs dropped by allied planes in the 1991 Gulf war to demolish a skyscraper and communications centre that originally occupied the site.

Today it is a source of pride to Iraqis that hardly a trace remains in Baghdad of the huge damage the allied air and missile attacks inflicted on the city during the U.S.-led multinational campaign to drive Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

But otherwise most Iraqis, their lives made desperately hard by U.N. sanctions imposed because of the Kuwait adventure, have little to brag about.

The invasion of the oil-rich neighbour to the south five years ago this week is now viewed as part of history that few people like to talk about.

Even the official press, which on previous anniversaries paid tribute to the events of Aug. 2 — termed Yaum Al Nida (The Day of the Calling) — has been silent this year.

"For me it is something of the past. I have already turned my back on it," said a university professor. "We want to know what will hap-

pen tomorrow."

Iraqis realise they have paid dearly for their capture of Kuwait and turning it into what was called Iraq's 19th province.

U.N. sanctions have caused economic havoc, driving prices to levels beyond the reach of most of the population.

The government newspaper Al Jumhouriya said last week the sanctions had killed more than one million Iraqis.

At traffic junctions in Baghdad, emaciated mothers with children trailing behind knock at car windows asking for money.

For many Iraqis Kuwait is the cause of their wretchedness — but there are few calls for vengeance.

"We have no scores to settle. We are poor people. We wait for the day oil flows again and hear our president is doing his best," said an old man.

Even the government in Baghdad would like to turn a new page. Several overtures to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have been made this year.

They have gone unheeded, but Baghdad, though aware that the scars from its invasion of Kuwait need more time to heal, has not given up hope.

It has encouraged contacts with Qatar and Oman, two of the Gulf states that joined the United States and its allies in pushing Iraq out of Kuwait.

Allied fears were raised once again last October when Baghdad massed troops close

to Kuwait's borders in what looked for a few days like a replay of August, 1990.

But, following a quick response from the United States and its allies, Iraq backed down and instead began what amounted to a charm offensive.

Iraq formally recognised

Kuwait as an independent state. Baghdad also erased from school textbooks references to Kuwait as part of Iraq.

"We are now holding out an olive branch. We hope our Arab neighbours (Kuwait and Saudi Arabia) will have the courage to forget the past," said an Iraqi journalist.

Kuwait songs and music are now in vogue in Iraq, and Iraqis travelling abroad have no hesitation in meeting Kuwaiti friends.

"I think there is more that binds us than separates. In Jordan, I and my favourite Kuwaiti singer — of course I am not going to give you his name — sang together in a theatre in Amman," said a well-known Iraqi composer.

"I think the Iraqis would welcome a Kuwaiti delegation in Baghdad now. The thing is, when will the Kuwaitis be willing to take such a step?" asked a Western diplomat.

"If they wait until the regime here goes, I believe they will have to wait for a very, very long time," he added.

Five years after its invasion, and seven-month occupation of Kuwait, Iraq is still inflict-

ing pain by refusing to shed light on 605 missing people, officials here say.

"They know that this hurts the Kuwaitis most. It's a pain they want to enjoy," according to Dwaaj Al Anzi, director of the National Committee for Prisoners of War and Missing.

The fate of the missing is the main obstacle to normalisation between Kuwait and Iraq as it weighs far more heavily on people's minds than that of stolen property and war reparations, which nonetheless infuriates them.

A pile of hundreds of destroyed buses and trucks in Mutella, near the desert border shows Iraq has returned many of the goods it plundered after it invaded Kuwait.

"We are now holding out an olive branch. We hope our Arab neighbours (Kuwait and Saudi Arabia) will have the courage to forget the past," said an Iraqi journalist.

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Five years after its invasion, and seven-month occupation of Kuwait, Iraq is still inflict-

Iraqi exiles ask: Is it really all Saddam's fault?

A nation of enormous potential, Iraq's immense problems have often been blamed on one man: Saddam Hussein. But Iraqi exiles say he survives in power five years after he invaded Kuwait because enough Iraqis still support him, or are unwilling to resist him.

By Jerome Socolovsky
The Associated Press

LONDON — "As thou art, shalt thou be ruled."

The admonition of 7th century Islamic leader Imam Ali to his early Muslim followers haunts modern-day Iraqis who have fled the rule of Saddam Hussein.

Now for years, critics of the Iraqi leader blamed him almost exclusively for the decline of a country blessed with an educated work force, a long history of advanced civilisation and vast oil wealth.

But now, 16 years after Saddam seized power, Iraqi exiles are beginning to echo the prophecy of the ancient Muslim philosopher-warrior: they are recognising that Saddam's rule has depended not only on his brutality, but also on the submissiveness and even active support from many of his subjects.

"Saddam is not something that came out of nowhere," said Salen Chalabi, a lawyer who was co-author of a plan to put Iraqi leaders before a U.N. war crimes tribunal. "Saddam is a product of Iraqi society."

Indeed, despite numerous attempts to overthrow him, Saddam has maintained enough support among Iraq's 18 million people to survive the five years since his ill-fated invasion of Kuwait on Aug. 2, 1990.

Since he became president in 1979, his regime has wiped out entire Kurdish villages with poison gas, deported tens of thousands of Iraqis of Persian origin and tortured and executed dissidents.

This has generated plenty of opposition, to be sure. An estimated 2 million Iraqis — more than 10 per cent of the population — have fled the country to escape Saddam's reign.

Others have paid a heavy price for resisting inside the country, including Shi'ite Muslims in the south, Kurds in the north, and even Saddam's fellow Sunni Muslims.

But since he stated wielding considerable power behind the scenes in the early 1970s, Saddam has won and held the support of a broad cross-section of people — academics, scientists, tribal chiefs, factory workers.

"During these 25 years, a lot of individuals have benefited from Saddam Hussein," said Latif Rachid, a spokesman for a Kurdish rebel group. "They have become rich. They have become powerful."

Even some Kurds were lured to Saddam's side, Mr. Rachid said.

Saddam has used Iraq's oil money to dispense patronage on a wide scale, which has been an effective means of maintaining support.

Exiles say the regime's main collaborators can be found among the estimated 1.5 million members of Saddam's Arab Socialist Resurrection Party, or "Baath" in Arabic.

Many of those who joined were simply cowards, charges

author Kanan Makiya, whose 1988 book, *Republic Of Fear*, described the party's strongarm methods.

If an Iraqi wanted a scholarship or a promotion, he or she could win it by informing on friends or relatives, Makiya asserted in an interview in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

That created "mountains and mountains of paperwork whose sole purpose is to make larger and larger numbers of people accomplices in the criminality of the regime," he said.

Saddam also played to widespread feelings of Iraqi chauvinism. When he launched a war against Iran in 1980 and when he invaded Kuwait in 1990, many Iraqis cheered.

"Iraqis thought they were the best Arabs," said Mir Basri, a historian and former head of the small Jewish community in Iraq.

In the 1980s, when Saddam started deporting people of Persian origin, "very few said, 'this is wrong,'" said Hani Al Feki, a one-time Saddam ally. "On the contrary, they would go and occupy his house or steal the contents."

Mr. Feki, who took part in the 1968 coup that installed the Baath Party, cited a series of television appearances in the early 1970s by prominent professionals.

In exchange for sinecures and other favours, they went on camera and gave ringing endorsements of Saddam, then the regime's No. 2 man, only to curse him later behind his back, Mr. Feki said.

"Nobody asked them to do this," he said. "They helped the dictatorship. They knew Saddam Hussein and they knew what he would do with the country."

A large number of exiles still reject any notion of collective responsibility, and hold Saddam solely to blame. But this view is increasingly challenged, even inside Iraq.

One hotly debated theory at present, about an Iraqi "split personality," was actually formulated in the 1950s by Ali Wardi, a sociologist at the University of Baghdad who died in early July.

"We must not forget that a lot of us are superficially civilised but deep inside us we are still bedouins or semi-bedouins," Mr. Wardi said in his six-volume work, which was republished in London in 1992 by popular demand among exiles.

Shortly before his death, a state-run newspaper in Baghdad, where Mr. Wardi lived, chastised the 82-year-old professor for continuing to stress the role in Iraqi society of bedouin values such as self-interest, blood ties and deference of strong chiefs.

Finger-pointing for Iraq's woes is a touchy subject these days, with nearly all Iraqis suffering from U.N. sanctions imposed after the Kuwait invasion.

According to the United Nations, one in five Iraqis goes to bed hungry every night even though food imports are exempt from the sanctions. Saddam has repeatedly rejected a proposal that would let Iraq export oil under U.N. supervision to pay for food and medicine.

Opponents of sanctions argue that ordinary Iraqis should not be punished for the misdeeds of their leaders, who continue to live comfortably, if not luxuriously.

"No Iraqi with a clear conscience can support sanctions," said Sheriff Ali Ibn Hussein, would-be king and cousin of former King Faisal II, who was overthrown in a bloody 1958 coup.

However, he added. "It is Saddam Hussein who is applying sanctions on Iraq."

Authoritative: Amman 24 per cent.
Aqaba 25 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN: Dr. Yusuf Al Faqih 756998
Dr. Arafat Al Asħħar 602597
Dr. Mukhlis Halasa 619220
Dr. Khalil Al Tusiq 751553
First Aid Station 619192
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asmar pharmacy 637055
Nairokh pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 649495
Shmeisani pharmacy 637680
Nairokh pharmacy 623672
Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID: Dr. Ahmad Qanu (-)
Alquds pharmacy (-)

WEATHER

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Hot and dry weather conditions will prevail with winds northwesterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.

St. Mary of Nazareth Church 22/37
Amman 27/42
Aqaba 18/39
Desert 26/41
Jordan Valley 26/41

CHURCHES

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Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590, Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440, De La Salle Church Tel. 661757

PRAYER TIMES

6:47 Fair (Seaside) Dhuhr
12:42 Dhuhr
16:22 Asr
19:58 Magrib
21:07 Isha

CURRIES

Food Control Centre 637111

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 81381302

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

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AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 81381302

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DISCUSSING WATER ISSUES: Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Monday receives in his office visiting Sudanese Minister of Water and Irrigation Yaqoub Abu Shora. The two officials reviewed cooperation in water related fields between Jordan and Sudan. Following the meeting Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Isheidat, who accompanied Mr. Abu Shora to the prime ministry, said agreement was reached in the talks for working out a new mechanism for cooperation which would update a former agreement between Khartoum and Amman. Under the new accord the two countries will exchange expertise and water related research and studies. Sudan has been seeking Jordanian expertise in searching for underground water resources (Petra photo)

'Israel to issue visas through embassy'

JORDANIANS WILL be able to obtain tourist visas at the Israeli Embassy in Amman as of mid-August, rather than have to wait to obtain them at the border, according to an agreement reached Sunday.

Jordanian and Israeli officials reached the agreement during a meeting called due to major bottlenecks at the Jordan River border crossing, near Kibbutz Maoz Haim, that have occurred over the past few weeks.

According to Menahem Zelichovsky, director of the border crossings for the Airports Authority, the new system is to go into effect on August 15.

Israeli tourists visiting Jordan will continue obtaining their visas to the Kingdom through their tour companies.

The meeting, held at the border crossing, was attended by senior Israel police, customs, and airports authority officials and their Jordanian counterparts.

Senate endorses legislation

(Continued from page 1)

In addition, from September 1, the King Hussein Bridge crossing, which until now has been closed on Friday and Saturday, is to be open on those days from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

On other days, hours will be extended, and will be from 6:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The two sides also agreed that the Jordanians are to add a second shuttle bus. There are already two Israeli shuttle buses in operation.

The Israeli authorities also undertook to set up shaded areas for the Jordanian visitors waiting to be checked, to provide 200 chairs for them and to make hot and cold drinks available.

Meanwhile, Israeli tourists returning from Jordan, as well as foreign tourists and Jordanians entering Israel, will all apparently have to put up with another two weeks of bottlenecks at the border crossing.

According to Makram Khoury Mahool, director of Jaffa Communications, a

company involved with trade relations with Jordan, the situation has become intolerable, with waits of six hours and more in the hot sun.

Last week, Mr. Mahool said he saw a number of people faint because of the heat. Those lining up to go through the Israeli police checkpoint had to wait in the sun and those who went to stand in the shade lost their place in line, he said.

The delay was caused, he explained, because each Jordanian entering had to be issued a visa, a procedure that takes a great deal of time.

Meanwhile, Israeli tourists returning from Jordan, as well as foreign tourists and Jordanians entering Israel, will all apparently have to put up with another two weeks of bottlenecks at the border crossing.

According to Makram Khoury Mahool, director of Jaffa Communications, a

new draft law will be submitted to the house for endorsement, the prime minister said.

Senator Thouran Hindawi, who also spoke on behalf of Senators Marwan Hmoud and Qaseem Obeidat, said that the issue of dual nationality holders was not tackled in the draft law. He proposed an amendment to article six of the legislation with view to ensuring more protection against land sale or lease to foreigners. He said that a law that tackles the issue from all its aspects will be produced for this purpose.

Senator Jawdat Shboul, former interior minister, countered by saying that the draft law prohibits any holder of

dual nationality from owning land in Jordan if his/her first or second nationality is Israeli. He said that even if a foreigner purchased land in Jordan and was later discovered to have dual nationality, one of which is Israeli, then the lease or sale contract will be considered null and void in accordance with the law.

"The draft law, which has been under thorough study by deputies, experts, senators and ministers, provides solid safeguards against future exploitation," said Mr. Shboul, the rapporteur of the Senate's joint financial and judiciary committee, which studied the draft law.

Even as police dragged away settlers from one hilltop, settler spokesman Aharon Domb said about 60 had set up camp on a nearby hill.

Doctors and ambulances stood by but there were no reports of serious injuries.

Israel, PLO to narrow differences

(Continued from page 1)

have to be concluded in August if Palestinian elections were to be held this year.

Mr. Savir said he did not know how long negotiations would take but said he felt the sides were close to signing.

Meanwhile, Israeli forces on Monday dragged scores of Jewish settlers down from a disputed West Bank hilltop and destroyed their tent site there, witnesses and Israeli police said.

Witnesses said police and settlers, who are protesting against the imminent spread of Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank, played a cat-and-mouse game up and down the rocky hillside for most of the day.

Police pulled protesters from the hilltop, sometimes over rocks, but then let many

TWO FURNISHED APARTMENTS FOR RENT

The first is a 200 square metres, separate ground floor apartment, consisting of two bedrooms, guest room, sitting and dining area, glassed-in veranda, garden, and a garage. The second is a 220 square metre second floor apartment, consisting of three bedrooms, guest room, living room, glassed-in balcony. Each apartment has separate central heating, telephone, maid room, large kitchen, and deluxe furniture. Please call Tel. 665711 and 664256

Sudanese interior minister arrives for talks on cooperative ventures

AMMAN (Petra) — Sudanese Minister of Interior Tayeb Ibrahim Kheir, who arrived here early Monday for a two-day visit opened talks with his Jordanian counterpart, Salameh Hammad, on promoting Jordanian-Sudanese cooperation in security and civil defence fields and in matters related to the work of interior ministries in both countries.

Mr. Kheir said that Sudan would like to cooperate with the Kingdom in security matters and in training personnel in civil defence and police work.

Mr. Hammad was quoted as saying that Jordan was willing to extend assistance in those areas to Sudan.

The Sudanese minister, who visited the interior ministry's information centre, was briefed on the operational system of the ministry's departments.

Mr. Kheir said that while in Jordan he aims to familiarise himself with the interior ministry's administrative systems, training programmes as well as the operations of the Public Security and Civil Defence departments for possible assimila-



Minister of Interior Salameh Hammad Monday escorts visiting Sudanese Minister of Interior Tayeb Ibrahim Kheir through the ministry's information centre (Petra photo)

tion in Sudan.

The Sudanese official later visited the Public Security Department (PSD) and met its director, Lieutenant General Abdul Rahman Adwan and senior assistants.

He was briefed on police organisation and operations in the country and PSD con-

tributions to United Nations peacekeeping forces deployed in several regions around the world.

Mr. Kheir inspected sever-

al branches of the department and heard about procedures in dealing with traffic accidents, crimes and the training of police cadres.

Government launches new drive to curb influx of foreign labourers

By Saad Hattar
Agence France Press

people, according to official figures. Some 160,000 are unemployed.

Unemployment soared dramatically in the wake of the 1990-1991 Gulf crisis, which prompted the return of 350,000 Jordanian expatriates working in Kuwait and other Gulf states.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Tuesday set up a five-minister panel tasked with "regulating the employment of foreign labourers," especially those from Egypt and Syria.

"While we welcome any Arab national to work in the Kingdom, we also have a rather limited capacity," Minister of Labour Nader Abu Sha'r told AFP.

"Our market is quite saturated and we can take no more," Mr. Abu Sha'r said.

Jordan's workforce is estimated at 856,000 out of a population of four million



Nader Abu Sha'r

and airports.

The campaign also coincides with the introduction of a new labour code that gives priority to Jordanian manpower.

"Employers should not opt to hire foreign labourers unless in special cases with official permits," the new labour code stipulates.

"After Jordanians, Arab labourers take priority over other foreigners, provided they work in sectors short of local manpower like agriculture and construction."

But employers tend to hire Egyptians who are reputed to accept lower wages than their Jordanian counterparts and are ready to work more hours.

The standard of wages is linked to the market mechanism, as well as to the actions of employers," Mr. Abu Sha'r said. "The ball is now in the court of business."

nessmen."

The minister stressed the campaign had no political motives.

"On the contrary, our bilateral protocol with Egypt bars any Egyptian from working in Jordan without a work permit," he said.

He stressed Amman would not resort to "collective deportation" as foreign labourers will be given a three-month grace period to adjust to regulations."

But all those caught without work permits after the deadline will be fined and immediately deported, he added.

Burdened by a foreign debt of around \$6.5 billion, Jordan introduced a five-year economic plan in Sept. 1993 which was aimed at slashing the unemployment rate to nine per cent by 1997 by creating 224,000 new jobs.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Heat wave to last until Wednesday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Department of Meteorology Monday said the current heat wave is expected to continue until Wednesday evening. A department spokesman told the Jordan Times that the high temperatures will be accompanied by dry, hot winds which exacerbate the conditions further. The average temperature in Jordan for this time of year is 32°C — temperatures over the next two days are expected to hit 37°C, the meteorologist said. Nighttime temperatures could be expected to drop to 22°C. In the Jordan Valley, he said, daytime highs could reach 42°C.

More computers to be installed in schools

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Ministry of Education plans to install 864 additional computers in all of its schools around the country in the coming year. The country's public schools were equipped with 4,531 computers in 488 schools last year. The ministry is gradually fulfilling a plan to offer all 10th grade students with computer courses, according to ministry officials.

PSD warns car rental offices to observe price regulations

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Public Security Department (PSD) Monday cautioned rent-a-car offices in Jordan to follow car rental regulations especially in cases in which young drivers and tourists are concerned.

Addressing a meeting of owners of car rental agencies, Major General Ibrahim Saraireh, assistant to the PSD director for traffic affairs, said that some agencies have rented cars to young people for higher rates than those allowed under the regulations, and some hiked the rates when renting cars to tourists.

He also complained that some car rental establishments do not properly maintain their vehicles, and some have not returned their clients' passports when the cars are returned to the office.

According to Major General Saraireh, these establishments are violating regulations set by the PSD.

The Spanish Embassy in Amman has the pleasure to announce that within the activities of the Jerash Festival of Culture and Arts

THE WORLD FAMOUS FLAMENCO DANCE 26-MEMBER GROUP FROM CADIZ

"AL-ANDALUS"

will perform at the South Theatre / Jerash August 1st and 2nd 1995 at 8:30 p.m.

WHAT'S GOING ON

JERASH FESTIVAL

- * Poetry recital by several Arab poets at Darat Al Funun, 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- * Play (in Arabic) entitled "The Digger and the Blind Prostitute" at Gracia Theatre at 8:00 p.m.
- * Concert by the Dio Ayad at Gracia Theatre at 9:30 p.m.
- * Performance by Jugnu Group at the Forum (7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.)
- * Lucriva Folklore Group of Slovakian at the Sound and Light at 9:00 p.m.
- * Performance by Al-Andalus De Cadiz of Spain at the South Theatre at 8:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- * Handicrafts and souvenirs at the Amman Citadel (9:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.)
- * Abstract art by Randa Qassis at the Royal Cultural Centre
- * Exhibition of Palestinian products 95 at the Universal Expo Centre, University Road.
- * Display of Palestinian heritage at the Professional Associations Complex.
- * Paintings and ceramics by Arab artists at Orfali Art Gallery, Umm Utheina.
- * Paintings by Adnan Yahyah at Darat Al Funun.
- * Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century at the French Cultural Centre.

Sri Lanka Tiger rebels admit 128 women cadres killed

COLOMBO (Agencies) — Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger rebels said Monday 128 women, including two suicide bombers, were killed in an abortive attack on four army bases Friday and that a "traitor" had forewarned the military.

The Tigers radio, broadcasting from the northern rebel stronghold of Jaffna, said 180 cadres were killed in Friday's assault in the northeast Welioya area, 128 of them women.

It made no mention of dead children seen lying in rows in pictures taken by the Defence Ministry after the fighting.

The armed forces scored their biggest victory over the Tamil Tigers in 12 years of war Friday and accused the guerrillas of sacrificing young girls and boys in the front line.

The army says the bodies of 182 Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) fighters were recovered but that the toll would rise. State radio said almost 500 Tigers had been killed, after bodies strewn along the beaches had been counted.

Only one home guard and one soldier were killed in raids on which they had received a tip-off, the military said.

Military spokesman Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe said Saturday was appalled at the number of children killed in the enemy front lines.

"There were young girls and boys in large numbers."

he told Reuters. "There is no respect of human life on their side. We can't sacrifice human lives like that."

Tiger Radio said a traitor had tipped off the military, which is why they were ready. It said two women suicide bombers had destroyed two artillery pieces at Janakapura, which it described as the armed forces' most deadly weapon.

Some 3,000 Tigers were involved in the attack on the military detachments at Kokkai, Janakapura, Jayasinghepura and Kokkutuduvai, military sources said.

Tigers attacked in the same area Monday, at Athawewwa, killing one soldier and wounding three, the military said.

On Sunday, troops ambushed and killed five Tigers south of the Elephant Pass base on the northern Jaffna lagoon. One soldier was wounded.

The Tigers launched their raids Friday as the armed forces prepared to resume their Operation Leap Forward offensive in the LTTE's Jaffna peninsula stronghold, where they say they have captured 75 square kilometres of rebel territory.

The Tigers retaliated Sunday by blowing up a popular brigadier in a landmine. He was promoted posthumously to a separate Tamil state," the JVP said.

The military said 10 Tigers and one soldier were killed Saturday when troops moved out of their newly captured

area south of Alveddi and attacked a group of LTTE fighters.

Tiger Radio said only three LTTE members were killed and that the rebels had stopped the army advance.

Jaffna Radio maintained silence about the raids over the weekend, but residents travelling from the north said the town of Omantha was in mourning, with black flags flying the streets and all the shops closed.

The Tigers have been fighting for a separate homeland in the north and east in a war which the government says more than 50,000 people have been killed since 1983.

Meanwhile a radical Sinhala group Monday called for a referendum on political proposals to end Sri Lanka's civil war and described the government's peace package as a "giant step" towards separation.

The Sinhalese People's Liberation Front, or JVP, which has led two unsuccessful insurrections said concessions to minority Tamils envisaged by the government amounted to a betrayal of the nation.

"The government is preparing to unveil a package which will pave the way to disintegrate the country. This so-called settlement to the ethnic conflict is a giant step towards the creation of Eelam, a separate Tamil state," the JVP said.

Any proposals must go to a referendum, the JVP said in a statement that put the group

with other extremist Sinhalese and Tamils who oppose the government plan.

The statement came as President Chandrika Kumaratunga scheduled meetings with Tamil legislators and the main opposition United National Party (UNP) to discuss a plan to end 23 years of fighting which has claimed over 50,000 lives.

In 1987, the JVP led street protests against a peace plan that called for the creation of provincial councils and granted limited autonomy in Tamils. Nearly 100 people died in protests in August 1987.

The plan eventually fell with the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) abrogating an agreement and returning to their guerrilla war.

Mrs. Kumaratunga's latest package, leaked to the press last week, envisages a federal set up with extensive legislative powers to eight regions. It effectively gives Tamils the right to determine their affairs.

The country's influential Buddhist clergy has already asked President Kumaratunga to delay unveiling the proposals until the LTTE has been defeated.

Mrs. Kumaratunga met Buddhist leaders at the weekend to discuss the issue but details of the meeting more not known. Officials said she guaranteed the sovereignty of the state and the special status accorded to Buddhism.



Registered Nurse Bayani Leguspi checks the blood pressure of Chicago resident Joseph Filipowski Jr. at a cooling centre in Chicago. In the wake of more than 500 heat-related deaths two weeks ago, Chicago declared a heat emergency as the heat index climbed above 100 degrees Fahrenheit (about 38 degrees Celsius). (AFP photo)

Chicago declares heat emergency

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Chicago declared a "heat emergency" over the weekend as temperatures soared into the mid-90s (35 degrees Centigrade), but there were no immediate reports of new deaths in this mid-western U.S. city still recovering from a deadly heat wave.

Some 546 deaths have been blamed on the recent hellish temperatures in Chicago, which extended its heat emergency into Monday amid continued forecasts of hot and sticky weather.

Nationwide, officials reported the deaths of 845 people over the past few weeks.

Emergency measures in Chicago have included the opening to the public of eight centres which provided round-the-clock air-conditioning for the poorest who are otherwise unable to escape the heat and high humidity which has plagued much of the eastern United States for the past two weeks.

People were also allowed into some 60 other city buildings during the heat of the day.

In Washington, veterans Saturday commemorated the Korean War, some 500 people had to be treated for heat exhaustion.

Meanwhile, a tropical storm brought relief from the heat to the coast of Texas, in the south, Sunday, but heavy rainfalls caused some flooding to previously parched areas.

Parents in court bid for baby euthanasia

LONDON (R) — The parents of a brain-damaged baby boy Monday sought to end his suffering and let him die. Fiona and Con Creedon went to the English High Court asking permission to withdraw artificial feeding for their 22-month-old son Thomas, brain-damaged in the womb and now blind and deaf. "Fiona and I love Thomas beyond measure and we would not seek this action if we did not believe it was best for him," Con Creedon said before launching the emotion-charged court bid.

"It is a desperately hard situation for any caring parent to be in," he told reporters. Thomas cries inconsolably, has constant fits and is fed through a hole in his stomach. He cannot control his limbs. In what could be a major test case for euthanasia in Britain, his parents say that force feeding the baby is barbaric and should be ended. In a landmark case in 1993, Tony Bland, was allowed to die three years after being left brain dead in a crowd crush at an English soccer stadium.

Parents refuse to take son back from police

CAIRO (AFP) — Police in a Cairo slum have been left with a nine-year-old boy on their hands after his divorced parents who threw him out refused to take him back, the daily Al Akhbar reported Monday. Police brought Mohammad Said Hamam into protective custody after finding him asleep in a street where he had lived alone for two months in the Shubra Al Kheima neighbourhood of the Egyptian capital. The boy told police he had been thrown out by his stepmother to prevent his father, a worker in a wood factory, from beating him. Hamam then turned to his mother, who also turned him out after her new husband refused to give him a home. Police contacted both parents but each refused to take back the child. Hamam will remain with police until they can find someone to take care of him, the paper said.

Meanwhile, at least 36 people were killed in criminal and political violence in volatile KwaZulu-Natal province at the weekend, police said in a statement Monday.

Among the incidents reported by police Monday, was an attack Saturday by an armed group of around 200 people on house in Isipingo, south of this KwaZulu-Natal port city, in which three people were killed.

The operation had netted 6,011 suspects by Monday. Lieutenant Jan Combrink told reporters.

"Police set up 357 roadblocks and 21,363 vehicles were searched... as part of the community safety plan," he said.

Sixteen suspects had been arrested for murder and 20 for attempted murder.

He said among the arrests were 406 for theft, 169 for housebreaking, 128 for motor vehicle theft or attempted theft and 117 for rape.

"Twenty-two were arrested for hijackings. We had great success here, with 18 of them arrested just over the weekend," he said.

Many of the suspects were caught at roadblocks set up around Johannesburg, one of the cities hardest hit by a wave of violent crime in which an average of 50 people

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World News

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1995 5



Members of Russian delegation (from left) Arkady Volsky, Anatoly Kuklev, Vyacheslav Mikhailov listen while a spokesman for OSCE (Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe) makes a statement at a press conference in the yard of the OSCE mission. The two

wearing army uniform on right are Chechen delegates Aslan Mashadov (right) and Usman Imayev (second from right). The press conference followed the signing of Russian-Chechen military accords (AFP photo)

Moscow: Military accord holds with Chechens

GROZNY, Russia (Agencies) — Russian officials and rebel Chechens Monday prepared an exchange of prisoners under a new military agreement despite shooting incidents overnight in which six Russian soldiers were reportedly killed.

In Moscow, the Constitutional Court, after several weeks of deliberation, ruled that a decree issued by President Boris Yeltsin last December to disarm Chechen guerrillas had been "absolutely constitutional."

The 19-member court also ruled that a separate government decree also of Dec. 9, which gave the green light for troops to go into Chechnya, "generally corresponds to the constitution."

Russian troops in the breakaway region said army checkpoints and command posts were fired on by Chechen sniper to times in the regional capital Grozny despite the deal, signed Sunday, aimed at ending seven months of conflict, which has cost thousands of lives.

But the ink was barely dry on the document — the precise contents of which were kept secret — when Chechen rebel leader Dzhokhar Dudayev was reported to have branded it invalid.

His comments, made by telephone to a reporter from the U.S. State Department-funded Radio Liberty, a Russian-language station, threw the hard-won agreement into doubt.

But in Moscow Russian officials Monday said the agreement still stood despite Mr. Dudayev's reported rejection of it.

Arkady Volsky, a senior member of the Russian delegation at the peace talks, held up a letter at a Moscow news conference in which he said Mr. Dudayev had fully empowered his negotiators to swap prisoners seized since

conclude a military agreement on Chechnya's behalf.

The letter, signed by Mr. Dudayev, was sent before the agreement was reached but the main condition the separatist leader had set was that all members of the Chechen delegation signed the accord.

"All members signed without exception," Mr. Volsky said.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin abolished Monday the Presidential Human Rights Commission headed by rights campaigner and former dissident Sergei Kovalev, Moscow Echo radio said.

Mr. Yeltsin decreed the commission would be placed under the authority of a similar body within the presidential administrative, the radio said.

The agreement also left unsolved the question of Chechnya's political status.

The Chechen rebels want full independence but Moscow has ruled this out and says the status issue can be discussed only after elections are held in Chechnya.

Mr. Dudayev, elected president of Chechnya in 1991, unilaterally declared independence from the Russian Federation.

Mr. Kovalev, 64, has been vehemently critical of Russia's use of massive military force and indiscriminate bombing and shelling of civilians to crush Chechnya's unilateral secession bid from Russia.

The rebels, who have fiercely resisted since Moscow poured troops into the region in December, fought in his name and the delegates to the peace talks were sent with his authority.

The Radio Liberty correspondent said Mr. Dudayev had alleged the Russian exerted pressure on his representatives. But the chief Chechen delegate, Usman

Imayev, appeared relaxed when he spoke to reporters Sunday.

Mr. Dudayev's comments could be a move to appease hardline supporters who want to avenge the deaths of comrades-in-arms, and civilian relatives and friends killed by Russian firepower.

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Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephone: 6671716, 6701414
Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Fax: 696183

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Labour market influx

IT IS an established fact that most Arab labourers in this country, who come from mainly Egypt, Syria and Iraq, work in the construction and agriculture sectors. The reason being that within these two sectors, foreign labour equates to a cheaper labour force than a national workforce. The average Egyptian worker, for example, earns JD 70 a month if engaged in agriculture and JD 150 if in construction.

However, work permits cost a prohibitive JD 300 per labourer, thus explaining why most work illegally. A building firm employing 20 workers is likely to resent paying JD 6,000 per annum to obtain work permits for them.

This is one side to the problem of imported labour. The second is the fact that since no minimum-wage law exists, employers, out of sheer self-interest, would rather employ foreigners. A young Jordanian labourer who pays rent or supports a family cannot possibly make ends meet on JD 70 to JD 100 a month.

There is therefore a dilemma. While the Minister of Labour, Dr. Nader Abul Shaar, says he will not deport illegal Arab workers, which is an honourable and exemplary stand, he cannot ignore cries of injustice from Jordanian labourers and political activists.

The question now is: would the curbing of foreign labour really open opportunities for the local workforce? We have to admit that we cannot answer the question, simply because we lack serious studies on the issue. Figures on the size of Jordan's workforce and the number of foreign labourers have been cited. But we doubt that any of them is totally accurate or believable. There are also no studies revealing the behavioural patterns of Jordanian workers. Would they be willing to replace Egyptian agricultural workers in the Jordan Valley or the South, for instance? There are different views on this and on the question of whether Jordanians would want to replace Arab workers who work in construction.

Unless we answer questions like these, we will find it difficult to react meaningfully and wisely to the issue at hand. It is therefore incumbent on the Ministry of Labour and other ministries to study the issue comprehensively before deciding on any certain plan of action.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

SULTAN AL Hattab, a writer in Al Ra'i Monday lauded Qatar as the first Arab Gulf state to open a representative office in the self-rule areas, describing the move as a step that might encourage other Gulf states to follow suit. Saying that Qatar has followed in the footsteps of Jordan, Egypt and Morocco in opening the office in Gaza, the writer said that the move is considered as an open support for the Palestinian leadership in its quest to establish an independent entity following the end of occupation. Economic and diplomatic support is what the Palestine National Authority (PNA) needs at the moment. The PNA has been obtaining this support from countries, said the writer. European states and Muslim Nations have already opened offices and provided moral and financial support for the Palestinians and it is time for all the Arab countries to do the same at a time when the Palestinians are struggling to stand on their own feet and build for the future.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour said Monday that because Jordan is in need of tourists and visitors, it ought to take steps to help achieve that goal. Regulations banning a Jordanian from driving a car with Saudi licence plate discourages Saudi visitors from coming to Jordan, for instance, said Mohammad Subeih. He said that a Saudi national is not accustomed to roads, districts and towns in Jordan and he prefers a Jordanian to drive him around; but he is disappointed with the traffic rules. Another point is fining Saudi Arabian and other cars for slight offences, which harm visitors who are not aware of the country's traffic and other systems, continued the writer. Also improper and untactical behaviour on the part of officials at border posts can do harm to the Kingdom and scare away visitors, he said. The writer said that traffic rules and other measures should be relaxed and traffic police and other officials should be flexible in their dealings with visitors.

The View from Fourth Circle

History as entertainment or teacher?

I HAVE had the pleasure this week of travelling around Syria on a family vacation visiting some of its major antiquities sites, on what is supposed to be, primarily a leisure trip. Yet it is difficult to appreciate the technical prowess and physical grandeur of sites such as Palmyra, Krak des Chevaliers (Qala'at El-Husn), the Umayyad Mosque in Damascus and Bastra in the south, or the calm power of monuments such as the tomb of Salaheddine (Saladin) without — from an Arab perspective, at least — drawing some explicitly political conclusions about the past.

The ancient monuments of our Levantine lands are presented to the world these days primarily in two forms — as profitable cultural entertainment for foreign tourists, or as destinations for picnics and family outings for Arabs. We tend to view our antiquities as being primarily about the past, and as being passive, dead monuments whose historical moment has passed long ago.

My renewed encounter with Syrian antiquities has dispelled many of these concepts, and reminded me of the many contemporary, political and global lessons that are inherent in these ancient ruins. The first lesson that we should ponder is about the nature of our antiquities sites throughout the Levant region: Are these monuments about the past only, or are they also about the present and the future?

I would suggest that they are very much about the present and the future, because even though the particular historical circumstances that gave rise to them — the Crusades, for example — have long vanished, the underlying geo-political and international forces that determine the nature of contacts and relationships between the Levant and the world's powers have changed very little.

The Crusades may be long over, but the essential political concept of Crusading is very much alive and well, though in a new, modern form. The Crusades wanted to conquer Jerusalem and the holy land and to wrest it from Muslim hands because they thought that the Holy City belonged only to them. They conquered Arab lands, and built massive fortresses to assert their eternal control of the land.

Walking around the astounding Crusader fortress of Qala'at El-Husn the other day, my reaction to the whole

Crusader episode was a combination of awe at their technical prowess in building such spectacular castles and fortified towns, and bemusement with the doomed audacity they showed in attempting to conquer and retain such important regions of Arab lands. I found myself wanting to read and learn more about the Arab political and military leaders who confronted and defeated the Crusaders, often at very high costs in terms of Arab lives and resources.

The fascinating thing about the Crusades is not that they occurred or were finally beaten back, but that they endured for so long — about two hundred years — in a region that was and remains endowed with such forceful human, natural, cultural and strategic resources. Archaeology and our antiquities monuments, in this respect, can be important resources for our own learning about our own past, complete with its successes and failures. The ancient monuments that we merely sell to foreign tour packages were, in their own time, emphatically political and ideological statements, and we would be making a very sad mistake if we thought that we could repack our past in a non-ideological and purely commercial manner that essentially sees us view our past through the emotional prism of a Disneyland and the national/cultural values of an eastern Florida.

It is more than merely interesting to recall that while the most important person of the 12th century was perhaps Salaheddine, the most internationally recognised figure of the 20th century has been — according to survey evidence — Mickey Mouse. The journey that we have travelled in the last eight centuries has been marked by many complex relationships with Europe and the modern West, yet some of the underlying forces that determine the nature of our relationships have changed very little, and — if Mickey Mouse is any indication — have probably changed for the worse.

The commercial imperative that dominates the West's attitude to the Levant, the wider Middle East and the rest of the developing world is perhaps only a modern, mercantile version of the more crude Crusading mentality of the 11th and 12th centuries. The Western attitude to Bosnia in this respect is fascinating and instructive. I recall vividly during the period immediately before the Gulf War in 1991 that George Bush and James Baker repeatedly stated the key reasons for their military coalition to drive

Iraq out of Kuwait: The reasons were about the credibility of United Nations resolutions, the importance of assuring that small countries would not be subjected to the predatory aims of bigger, stronger countries, and the importance of affirming the application of the international rule of law.

Those principles are largely forgotten today in Bosnia, perhaps because Bosnia, unlike Kuwait, is not commercially significant; and in our modern world, where universalism is denominated in how many tickets to Mickey Mouse spectacles you can sell, the issues of truly universal interest to the West are those that have measurable commercial attributes. This is sad but real aspect of our contemporary world, but it was also a reality in the ancient world as well.

When we visit antiquities sites in the Middle East, we should make the effort to derive as much useful information from them for our own lives as we seem to be able to derive for the entertainment of visitors from other countries. The key lessons of a site such as Palmyra, for example, seem to be about the long-term utility of imperial dependence, of trying to generate durability and well-being for yourself in this region by delivering strategic services to imperial capitals far away. But Palmyra also teaches us about the political and aesthetic or cultural beauty of small nations or kingdoms in this region that live well and for many centuries by pursuing national strategies that serve their own self-interest while also being useful to others, ie. by striking a balance between national dignity and international cooperation and interaction.

The lesson of an Umayyad mosque, on the other hand, is primarily about the productivity, creativity and sheer human and national power that can be generated by indigenous resources when political forces allow local talent to manifest itself.

The cycle of national achievement and regression has defined the Middle East for thousands of years, and no doubt will do so for thousands of years to come. Perhaps the achievement phases could be lengthened and the regression phases shortened if we were better able to learn from the lessons of our rich past, instead of primarily relating to the past as the source of endless entertainment and amusement.

LETTERS

Name distorted

To the Editor:

REFERENCE IS made to the interview with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres (Jordan Times, July 28), as I know Jerusalem, especially the Old City, rather well. I was puzzled to locate a "Via da la Rose" mentioned in the text of the interview. After a short reflection I have become sure that it is a distortion of the name of "Via Dolorosa" or the way of the dolours, commonly known to Christians and others as the "Way of the Cross" of Jesus.

Hubert Dobers,
Amman.

Waiting for telephone directory

To the Editor:

JORDAN HAS been without a telephone directory since 1983. It is not enough to complain or to underline the significance of this failure and I honestly think those responsible should be questioned. We enter into perhaps the final chance for a leap towards catching up with the world and there is no simple telephone directory. I know all the excuses. I think a group of three or four 18-year olds with some computer literacy can produce such a document containing 250,000 entries in a week.

I can clearly recall the promises of officials that the directory will be ready in June. By the way, I wish to remind the Telecommunication Corporation (TCC) that a directory should be published every year and not once every generation.

As we are warned to pay our bills to the TCC and line up and have the right change and not to argue about the rates and the service, I protest the unacceptable failure of the TCC to produce the directory and call upon it to shape up very quickly.

Jafar Saleem,
Amman.

'Treat us well'

To the Editor:

I WOULD like to share an experience I had in Jordan as a domestic employee for a Jordanian family.

My employer requested me to take the children to "Kids' Zone" in Sweifieh an exciting event for both me and the children. When we got there, the children immediately got busy playing and having fun, while I stood to keep watch over them. Finally, I got a little tired, so I decided to take a seat. Suddenly a person who works there approached me and said: "You can't sit here. Only madames are allowed to sit here." "Why?" I asked.

"Orders from the owner," came the quick reply. What could I do? I stood up and could only think of the else. But I wasn't allowed to sit on a plastic chair. I be told not to sit on a toilet seat. I wondered whether I should bring my own chair next time. I wondered whether I should take the children somewhere else on the next occasion.

What a way to behave! What attitudes are these? Aren't we all born equal? There are the rich and the poor, the haves and have-nots. But in the end, whatever we are, and wherever we are, we will all be treated well and equally up there.

Belle F. de Jesus,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

U.S. Bosnia arms lift could bring real nightmare

By Nicholas Doughty
Reuter

LONDON — For Europe, the real nightmare in the Balkans may only just be starting.

If the United States lifts the international arms embargo for Bosnia's government, diplomats and analysts say the consequences could go far beyond a humiliating withdrawal of the U.N. peacekeeping force and an even worse slaughter in Bosnia.

Many predict a wider Balkan conflict that would suck in NATO members Greece and Turkey and a lasting international rift between the United States, European allies and Russia.

That in turn would cripple future U.N. operations, hamstring NATO and destroy any hope of building a better European security order from the chaos that has followed the cold war.

"The effects would be far-reaching, from a worsening of the fighting in Bosnia to serious damage to the international institutions," said Michael Williams of the London-based International Institute of Strategic Studies (IISS).

The Bosnian government argues that the U.N. arms embargo, imposed on all parties in former Yugoslavia in 1992 as the old fed-

or are asked to leave by the Bosnian government has to go through several difficult hurdles before it becomes law, since it is opposed by President Bill Clinton.

But any U.S. move to supply weapons would coincide with the end of the U.N. mission in Bosnia since key European nations have said they would be forced to withdraw.

British Prime Minister John Major hinted at the problems that would follow during last week's international meeting in London on the crisis, saying the peacekeepers had helped contain the conflict and curb the worst excesses.

"If UNPROFOR were forced out of Bosnia... it would not end our involvement," Mr. Major said. "We all know that."

Despite warnings and criticism from European allies and Russia, many in the U.S. Congress believe it is now time to act after three years of war and that nothing could be worse or more unjust than the current humiliation of the U.N. mission.

A more intense conflict in Bosnia would risk dragging in Croatia and even Serbia itself, diplomats say.

eration fell apart, has put its forces at an unfair disadvantage since the Serbs had most of the heavy weapons.

But this is how European diplomats — and U.S. administration officials — fear things could develop if Washington unilaterally lifts the arms embargo.

A U.N. pullout would require the biggest military operation in Europe since World War II to withdraw the peacekeepers. Led by NATO, it would include some 60,000 troops, almost half of them from the United States.

Knowing that the arms embargo was to be lifted, the Bosnian Serbs would probably launch major attacks on government positions and try to hijack U.N. vehicles and weaponry. This would make a withdrawal much riskier, with higher casualties.

There would be more attacks on "safe areas" and more floods of refugees. "This time it would be no holds barred. The appalling scenes in Srebrenica and Zepa would be repeated elsewhere," said Mr. Williams of the IISS.

Lifting the arms embargo and ending the U.N. mission would finally prove that Europe and its institutions had failed to deal with ethnic and nationalist problems on the continent.

A unilateral lift by the United States — in defiance of a U.N. ban — would destroy Washington's authority at the United Nations on other issues and undermine its claim to lead NATO, where it has often disagreed with European allies over Bosnia.

King Hussein's relations with Israel and other countries are improving and especially with Syria and Egypt. His Majesty's readiness to support the Palestinians in their national rights is evident. The King has emphasized the importance of the Kingdom's independence and the policies he has pursued have secured his position. Responding to the process of normalization with Israel, King Hussein again of his bewilderment at the use of the word "normalization" in referring to the peace process. The King said that Jordan and Israel should be a state of peace and cooperation between them and Israel.

Features

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Bikdash — the last of the hardened Arab Marxist chiefs

By Marian Nimry
Special to the Jordan Times



KHALID BIKDASH, the Syrian Communist Party chief for 40 years who died last week in Damascus, is remembered by his comrades as a committed Marxist, a fighter for greater Arab freedom, a great orator and a persuasive but undemocratic leader.

"I met him when he was still working underground," recalls Issa Madanat, secretary general of the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party, who met Mr. Bikdash for the first time in 1954. "He was a striking personality, confident, with persuasive abilities."

Khalid Bikdash, of Kurdish origin, fought for independence during the French occupation in the twenties.

At that time, the teachings of Lenin and Marx attracted him and he joined the Syrian-Lebanese Communist Party in 1930. Shortly afterwards he went to Moscow to continue his study of Marxist-Leninist ideology.

In 1935 Mr. Bikdash returned to Syria and in 1937 became the secretary general for the 12-year-old Communist Party.

In 1958, Syria and Egypt

him believe that he was always right."

In the mid-fifties, Mr. Bikdash became the first communist deputy to be elected to an Arab parliament. His procurement of 17 thousand votes in conservative Damascus was an obvious declaration of the people's response to his leftist ideas.

In 1959, all communist activists were arrested in Syria and Egypt. Mr. Bikdash sought political asylum in the Soviet Union and returned only after the end of the unity between Egypt and Syria in 1961.

While the party planned

to stage demonstrations against Syrian President Hafez Al Assad's Reform Movement in 1970, Mr. Bikdash advised reflection and caution and then went on to form his own Syrian National Progressive Front in 1972.

Yacoub Zayadin, secretary general of the Jordanian Communist Party, remembers the communist leader as a big man over 180cm tall, an excellent orator; a man who spoke clearly and precisely and who was unparalleled in his political performance and shrewd analysis."

Towards the end, Mr. Bikdash remained politically active despite his illness and was still the secretary general of the party at the age of 83.

Tens of thousands of people showed up at his funeral, including deputies from the Syrian government and several delegates from the various political parties in Syria, according to Mr. Zayadin. "He spent more than 60 years of his life in and out of jail, resisting occupation, staging demonstrations and living in exile," Mr. Zayadin said. "He will be remembered as a great man, an idealist and a fighter for social progress."

By Vanora Bennett
Reuter

LONDON — A rusting Japanese submarine carrying a fabulous treasure in gold has caused a row between Tokyo and the Americans who discovered it half a century after a U.S. torpedo consigned it to the deep.

The giant I-52 vessel sank in the Atlantic Ocean in June 1944, at the height of World War II. All 94 crew — and more than two tonnes of gold destined for Japan's wartime ally, Nazi Germany — went down too.

The following day when allied forces searched the area thousands of miles west of the Cape Verde Islands, they found only scraps of silk and a Japanese sandal floating on the water.

The submarine's exact whereabouts remained a mystery for the next five decades, despite estimates by the U.S. fighter-bomber which destroyed it, the nearby U.S. aircraft carrier Bogue and a German escort submarine which escaped.

Its cargo alone is worth \$25 million at modern prices and hundreds of tonnes of other metals are also on board. The metals were to have been used by Japan to pay Germany for new military technology.

"In this case we think we have certain rights under international law," Mr. Tidwell told Reuters by telephone from his U.S. home at Centreville, Virginia. "But if there's disagreement I think it will be worked out."

Mr. Tidwell prefers to stress the historical value of his find. "We've been keeping the Japanese notified since way back in May. We've been keeping them informed. If we did raise the submarine, we would

move the gold and if possible raise the craft. The price tag of up to \$8 million would leave plenty of change from the gold's modern value."

Mr. Tidwell told the New York Times he believed Tokyo would make no claim to the war booty which, according to a manifesto radioed from Tokyo to Berlin and decoded by wartime U.S. interceptors, consists of 146 ingots packed in 49 metal boxes.

Japan's collective memory of World War II, in which it was on the losing side, is painful and traumatic. A new generation of Japanese adults have turned their backs on the military values of their forefathers.

But Japan has made it clear that there were limits to its shyness about the past. It wants the gold too.

"As a general rule, both the vessel and its cargo are definitely the property of the government of Japan," said an official of the Japanese Finance Ministry's (overseas) National Property Division.

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return it to Japan.

"I think the Japanese are going to get behind this project."

"Now we have to concentrate on what really happened in the Atlantic 51 years ago," he said.

Historians have never photographed the I-52. At 108 metres long it was bigger than any U.S. submarine of the day.

The technology which Mr. Tidwell intends to use to raise it is similar to techniques used to recover the Titanic, the ocean liner which settled more than two miles underwater after sinking in 1912.

Raising the I-52 will be more difficult.

"It's identical, but this submarine is 2 km deeper than the Titanic. We're excited about trying to meet that challenge, but... we might not manage to salvage this one."

Mr. Tidwell plans a photographic trip in the next six months to establish what he can do next. The families of the Japanese crew, who were likely to oppose the salvage of the submarine by a private organisation from a foreign country, have not yet been identified.

Mr. Tidwell, himself a former military man who served in Vietnam two decades ago, said he did not expect to find human remains on the sunken warship.

"We don't expect to find any remains there. The Titanic showed there were no remains," he said. "The reasons are a combination of depth and the water being mineral poor, so everything breaks up and goes away."

Japan, Americans argue over undersea treasure trove

By Vanora Bennett
Reuter

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Talks to curb ethnic violence in Karachi break down

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Negotiations to stop the relentless violence in the southern city of Karachi were off Monday when Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's embittered opposition boycotted the talks.

The Mohajir Qami Movement (MQM) accused the government of ignoring several of its demands, including one to stop house-to-house searches by paramilitary rangers in MQM strongholds in Karachi.

"The government hasn't even bothered to reply to our demands," Ajmal Dehlvi, head of the MQM negotiation team, said in Karachi.

Ms. Bhutto's government opened talks with her militant opponents July 11, 1995, after nearly two months of

fighting that left about 500 people dead, most of them caught in the crossfire.

Since talks began, another 165 people have been killed.

Little progress was made during the four rounds of talks, and neither side appears willing to compromise.

Entire neighbourhoods of Karachi have been turned into battle zones, and financial institutions and the Karachi stock exchange are routinely shut down by strike calls.

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Norway sees upturn in Palestinian fortunes

OSLO (R) — Norway said on Monday there had been a significant turnaround in the Palestinian self-rule budget thanks to closer cooperation between the Palestine National Authority, Israel and donor countries.

Norway, which chairs an international consortium of donors for aid to the Palestinian self-rule areas, said the final size of the budget deficit would depend on further economic and political developments in the remainder of the year.

"We are impressed with the budget discipline of the Palestinian administration and especially the ministry of finance," Jan Egeland, state secretary in the Norwegian Foreign Ministry, told Reuters. He cited reports from the Palestinian authority and the World Bank.

"The situation was fairly bleak. We were faced with a

big budget deficit which looked as if it was growing," he said.

But the April meetings provided a framework for the three sides to strengthen cooperation and obtained detailed commitments for Israel's support to Palestinian economic development including free passage of goods across borders.

Contributions pledged by donor states — \$2.5 billion between 1994 and 1999 — also have begun to materialise after a slow start.

In March, Norway sent donor countries an urgent reminder to pay up or risk undermining the Middle East peace process.

Donor countries contribute into the Holst Fund, set up in honour of the former Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan

J. Holst who died after brokering the 1993 peace talks between Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"We have expenditures from the Holst Fund of close to \$15 million per month and from being continually hand-to-mouth before, we are now able to cover to our credit," Mr. Egeland said.

The major donor nations are the European Union, Japan, the United States, Saudi Arabia and Norway. In the most recent commitment Saudi Arabia pledged \$17.5 million to the Palestinian Authority and police force.

"For the first time we will be able to pay many thousands of public-sector employees on time. I feel confident we will avoid this year," Mr. Egeland said.

positive international sentiment towards the region but said that international investment will depend on the area's stability and regional cooperation.

"Market forces are encouraging but the political stands need to be changed," the Crown Prince said.

Prince Hassan stressed the importance of articulating well-thought out and comprehensive visions for the development of the region instead of narrowing the focus to limited projects and ideas.

He said Jordan is not seeking aid in the traditional sense but is pursuing cooperation in implementing regional projects.

The slow pace of movement is not only in the international community. The donors are searching for solid, clear ground for investment," he said.

The Crown Prince spoke of the importance of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, which will be held in Amman in October, stressing that the burden of preparing for the summit rests with the government as well as the private sector.

The King said the Crown Prince emphasized the sovereignty of the Kingdom and the independence of its decisions, adding that the policies Jordan has followed have secured its future and ended the threats that surrounded it in the past few years.

Addressing the problems which they face.

The King said the majority of Jordanians are supportive of the Kingdom's policies, which are carefully articulated to serve and protect the interests of the King.

King Hussein urged the minority to respect the views of the majority in accordance with the principles of democracy.

"The people are thirsty for information," the King said, adding that some in the media are still "living in the old times"

and urging newspapers to offer an objective picture of events.

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker said Sunday that the government is "studying" legislation with view to introducing changes that would guarantee the freedom of choice of unions members.

Some unions said they would dismiss members who "normalise" ties with Israel.

Some laws ban professionals

NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkey wants more protection from Kurds in Germany

BONN (R) — Turkey's ambassador to Bonn, Volkan Vural, on Monday demanded tougher action against Kurdish separatists after firebombers attacked Turkish properties in Germany for the seventh successive night.

A arsonists hurled petrol bombs at Turkish travel agencies in the cities of Bochum and Bremen but failed to break the windows or cause substantial damage, police said. Police attribute most of the more than two dozen attacks to the Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK), fighting Ankara for independence or autonomy in southeast Turkey and banned in Germany for staging several series of violent protests here.

Mr. Vural told German radio he understood that police could not post themselves in front of every Turkish shop. Germany is home to some two million Turks. It hosts about 400,000 Kurds, most of whom are from Turkey. But he said authorities must clamp down on PKK sympathisers.

Malaysia waives on arms pledge for Bosnia

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Malaysia on Monday shied away from reaffirming its offer to sell arms to Bosnian government forces, insisting it was merely preparing contingency plans in case of a U.N. withdrawal from Bosnia. "Arms should be the last thing... We are not there to go to war," Defense Minister Syed Hamid Albar told reporters at Kuala Lumpur International Airport after returning from a one-week trip to the United States and Canada to visit military aircraft makers. His remarks contradicted a statement by his deputy, Abdullah Fadil Che Wan, on Saturday that Malaysia would meet with the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) contact group in New York soon to discuss the Bosnian government's arms needs. Mr. Albar was reportedly by the New Straits Times on Sunday as saying a joint committee set up by Malaysia's defence and foreign ministries would meet the OIC contact group to "discuss the financing for the purchase of weapons and logistics."

Military kills 11 Kurds in southeast Turkey

ANKARA (R) — Turkish military forces in recent days have killed 11 armed Kurdish separatists in separate raids in southeastern Turkey, authorities announced Monday. Army troops attacked hideouts of the separatist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) in the Hakkari province near Iraq and Iran and in the towns of Tunceli, Batman, and Bitlis in the southeast, the official Anatolian News Agency said. The agency was quoting from an official statement from the Diyarbakir provincial office in charge of coordinating the government struggle against the PKK.

Yemen says lift Iraq embargo

SANA (R) — Yemen on Monday called for lifting of United Nations sanctions against Iraq, saying Baghdad had implemented all Security Council resolutions related to its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. "Just as our people rejected Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait, we reject the continuation of the embargo of Iraq after it has implemented and abided by U.N. resolutions," the official Yemeni newspaper Al Thawra said in an editorial.

Israel, France expand double taxation treaty

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel and France signed on Monday an expanded version of their 1963 treaty to stop double taxation, a spokeswoman for Israel's Foreign Ministry said. The spokeswoman said the most significant change concerns inheritance tax. French citizens who bequeath money to the Israeli government and non-profit organisations in

Cairo meeting discusses setting up business council

CAIRO (R) — Businessmen and government officials from Egypt, Jordan, the PLO and Israel attended a meeting in Cairo on Monday to discuss setting up a regional business council, Egyptian foreign ministry officials said.

Egypt's Assistant Foreign Minister Raouf Saad said the meeting had been suggested at the Casablanca economic summit held in Morocco last year. He added that the business council should be approved by the second Middle East economic summit to be held in Amman next October.

Egypt, Jordan, and the PLO have all signed separate peace treaties with Israel. They are also engaged in the multilateral peace talks with the Jewish state which began

at the 1991 Madrid peace conference.

As well as the political talks, participants agreed to form five separate committees on issues of regional cooperation.

Syria and Lebanon, which have yet to sign peace accords with Israel, were the only two Arab countries not to take part in any of the multilateral talks committee, saying political agreement should be reached first.

Mr. Saad told reporters that Egypt believed "comprehensive" economic cooperation cannot be achieved except in the framework of comprehensive, just and permanent peace.

He added that Egypt was ready to help in discussing

"all means to support regional cooperation after peace is achieved."

Mr. Saad said the committee will hold other meetings in the coming stage to prepare for establishment of the proposed business council before the Amman summit.

A source at the Egyptian foreign ministry who refused to be named said Monday's meeting was low-key and more time was needed until agreement could be reached on what kind of projects the participants could cooperate in.

Representatives of the United States, sponsor of the Middle East peace process, and the European Union took part in the meeting, the foreign ministry said.

Saudi inflation up in first quarter

DUBAI (R) — Rises in the prices of utilities and petrol triggered an unusually steep 4.5 per cent increase in the cost of living in Saudi Arabia during the first three months of 1995, official figures showed.

The figures from the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA), obtained by Reuters on Monday, showed the general cost of living index for middle income people rose to 115.2 points at end March from 110.2 points at the end of December.

The figures from the Kingdom's central bank also showed the index rose by 5.1 per cent on an annual basic compared with the end of March 1994 when it stood at 109.6 points.

"The rise is a direct result of the increase in the prices of petrol and utilities. It will probably not set a trend," one diplomat said.

March 1994.

It showed the index for transport and communications up an even steeper 23.4 per cent to 128.7 points at end-March from 105.3 points in December and 104.4 at end-March 1994.

The indices for other categories like food, medical care and education were hardly changed.

The middle income category covers consumers who spend between 2,500 riyals (\$666) and 10,000 riyals (\$2,666) monthly.

The index, with a base of 100 points in 1988, covers the kingdom's 10 main cities.

SAMA figures show that the retail import price index for the first quarter of 1995 was little changed at 106.1 points from 106.2 in the same period of 1994, indicating domestic factors were behind the cost of living increase.

U.S. official calls for new methods for settling trade disputes

TOKYO (AP) — Hoping to avoid more high-profile showdowns, the United States is seeking new methods to head off and settle trade disputes with Japan, a top U.S. trade official said Monday.

Jeffrey Garten, U.S. under-secretary of commerce for international trade, spelled out what he called a strategic framework for cooperation that would lead to a more positive phase in trade relations between the two economies.

The proposals, which Mr. Garten was to present later Monday to his counterpart in the Ministry of International Trade, Yoshihiro Sakamoto, come amid one of the most notorious periods of trade relations between the two countries in recent memory.

Less than a week after the two sides reached agreement in late June on auto trade, one of their most bitter and drawn-out fights, the U.S. trade representative's office said it was opening an investigation into allegations that

Kuwait must spend heavily to retain oil role

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait which spent billions of dollars repairing oil industry damage from Iraq's occupation five years ago, must now spend billions more just to retain its role in oil's big league, let alone expand it, diplomats say.

The Gulf state must contemplate heavy investment in

secondary recovery methods to augment the natural pressure of its giant oilfields since without it production capacity could start to fall in six to eight years' time, diplomats say.

"If they want to keep their influence in OPEC, big money will have to go on installing these technologies," one diplomat said before the anniversary of Iraq's invasion on August 2, 1990.

"Like middle-aged fields elsewhere, the output of the fields at some stage will start to decline naturally. The technologies to sustain and raise output from such wells are complex and Kuwait has little expertise in the disciplines required."

The country of 1.8 million depends on oil for 94 per cent of export revenue. It has 10 per cent of global crude oil reserves and accounts for three per cent of world production.

Diplomats say a fall in natural oilflow pressure in the wells early in the 21st century could lower production capacity if methods such as water injection or gas lift are not installed.

They said Kuwait had perhaps two years before it had to arrange contracts for installing the hardware in major fields since actual construction and training Kuwaitis in managing assisted extraction would

be tough competition between banks mainly for consumer business like personal loans and credit cards. Banks are trying to follow the latest technology.

Commercial Bank of Dubai senior Manager Ibrahim Abdullah said.

Until recently banks in the UAE have concentrated on corporate business and trade finance, particularly in Dubai — the trade centre of the Gulf. But greater competition in the past few years has seen the product range grow and the methods of marketing it to the public become more advanced.

"The range of products will continue to increase and the way of selling them to you will change," Mr. Fredrick said, referring to aggressive advertising campaigns run by a number of banks.

Customers have only relatively recently been able to do their banking by telephone in the UAE, and this only applies to clients of a few banks. Personalised credit cards and schemes tailored specifically for expatriates, who make up about 75 per cent of the two million population, are also new.

Only two banks — Emirates Bank International and BBME — have linked their automated teller machines (ATMs) so far, but bankers said the eventual linking of all ATMs to a central network is concerned.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Go to experts for advice on how best to gain your most personal wishes, and then also use good judgement.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get that situation from the past nicely cleared up during day hours today and then study into new outlets this evening.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Work on some long-term project during this day, but study more important goals this evening to get ahead in your career.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get that business completed this morning, and tonight you know how to improve your status in life.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Be sure you follow the Golden Rule today and see how you can improve your lot in life this evening.

Birthstone of July: Ruby — Tiger's Eye

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1995

(KPC) were told to think again — the security motive is no longer valid in view of Kuwait's strengthened post-war military ties with its allies.

But diplomats say far from closing the door on a foreign oil firm in Kuwait, the government's request for new ideas has given KPC the opportunity to argue for secondary recovery investment and the need for Western suppliers and partners — subjects apparently outside the immediate scope of the first paper.

Kuwaiti oilmen last year submitted a brief paper to the government suggesting ways of developing wells with foreign help in return for granting foreigners some form of participation.

The paper was prompted in part by the notion that long-term joint ventures with Western companies would give Gulf war allies a continuing stake in the emirate's easiest and most efficient to operate.

The fields lie in huge, shallow deposits under flat desert close to sea export terminals.

Natural pressure has kept them pumping for 50 years.

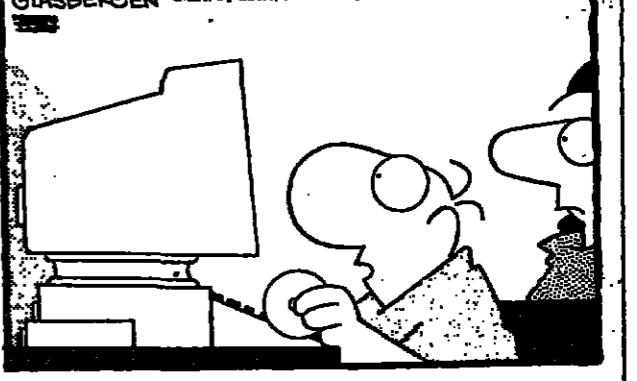
Crude output costs are 70 cents a barrel.

The country, confident that demand for its crude will rise in coming years, plans to spend \$15 billion to raise capacity to 3.5 million bpd by the year 2005.

But diplomats say a track record of slow decision-making in arranging big construction contracts could delay the expansion.

A case in point is a \$400 million contract for construction of two gathering centres

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



HOROSCOPE
FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1995
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have to be more aware of what your true potential today is if you are to gain the big success you desire.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) Find more modern ways of operating today so that you can become more successful and forget the obsolete.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A partner has been detrimental to your best interests for a long time, and today you know how to handle the matter.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Early today handle career affairs which need solving, and then get at the tasks which are ahead of you.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Use a more modern talent if you want to be more successful. Also get rid of some deep-rooted idea which annoys your mate.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Get rid of that condition at home today which is not functional and replace with more modern system which will work fine.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Get busy at practical affairs today so that you need not suffer lack or delays where money is concerned.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Go to experts for advice on how best to gain your most personal wishes, and then also use good judgement.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get that situation from the past nicely cleared up during day hours today and then study into new outlets this evening.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Work on some long-term project during this day, but study more important goals this evening to get ahead in your career.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Get that business completed this morning, and tonight you know how to improve your status in life.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Be sure you follow the Golden Rule today and see how you can improve your lot in life this evening.

Print answer here: -
(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: **PIFLY** **KYASH** **MARIED** **YEUFLE**

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

That Scrambled Word Game by Heidi Arnold and Mike Argilton

It's from Master Billy, sir.

Business & Finance

JORDAN TIMES, TUESDAY, AUGUST 1, 1995

Business Daily Beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Government pay raises contingent on rise in costs of living

Minister of Finance Basel Jardaneh said the government will increase civil servants' annual increments in case it is proven that there is a rise in living costs. The minister was quoted by Chairman of the Lower House of Parliament's Finance Committee Hashem Al Dabbas as saying the government was doing a study on the cost of living and that the outcome of the study will determine its decision on the issue. Following a committee meeting with Mr. Jardaneh and Industry and Trade Minister Ali Abu-Ragheb, Mr. Dabbas said the two sides agreed to request the presence of the director general of the Statistics Department, which is doing the study, in an upcoming meeting of the committee. He said the committee discussed in its meeting draft laws on the income tax, the sales tax and investments. In view of the importance of the three laws to the investment climate in the Kingdom and the need to quickly approve them before the Middle East and North Africa Economic Summit (MENA) which will be held in Amman in October, the committee decided to discuss the three laws as one group, Mr. Dabbas said. He added that the minister of finance told the committee that the income tax draft law will positively reflect on citizens. The minister told the committee that the draft law will provide for reducing income tax charged to people with low incomes, especially those with an annual income of JD 6,000. The minister also said the law would reduce the income tax charged to banks and companies from 30 per cent to 15 per cent (Al Ra'i).

** The General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) has allocated JD 200,000 for the establishment of new charity societies in various parts of the Kingdom. GUVS, which Tuesday marks its 36th anniversary, has also allocated JD 500,000 in assistance to existing societies and JD 640,000 to carry out various charity and income-generating projects (Al Ra'i).

** The first Palestinian products fair currently held in Amman is still attracting large numbers of people. On its third day, some 12,000 people visited the fair. Visitors said the fair gives them the opportunity to get familiarised with Palestinian products and helps enhance Jordanian-Palestinian trade relations (Al Dostour).

** The Jordan Petroleum Company's profits during 1994 totalled JD 4.95 million, compared to JD 4.092 million in 1993, thus reflecting a 17 per cent increase. The company will distribute JD 3,840 million of the profits to shareholders. The company produced a total of 2.9 tonnes of fuel in 1994 (Al Ra'i).

Asians remain top trade partners of Dubai

DUBAI (AFP) — Japan, China and other Asian countries have remained key trade partners of the Gulf emirate of Dubai despite competition from the West, an official report showed on Monday.

Japan topped the list of exporters to Dubai, a position it has monopolised for several years now.

Its exports stood at 1.48 billion dirhams (\$403 million) in the first quarter of 1995, according to the report by the Dubai chamber of commerce and industry and the state statistics department, published in the daily Al Bayan.

The figure is lower than that during the first quarter of 1994, when exports stood at around 1.91 billion dirhams (\$520 million). Japan's exports to Dubai, which was among the five top partners of the emirate a few years ago, slipped to the 10th rank, with exports of 393 million dirhams (\$107 million). Italy and other European states also lost ground to the Asians.

Iran, despite its island dispute with the United Arab Emirates (UAE), maintained its position as the top export market for Dubai. Reexports stood at 985 million dirhams (\$268.4 million), accounting for around 33 per cent of Dubai's total reexports in the first quarter of 1995.

Iran's exports to Dubai stood at 253 million dirhams (\$69 million) in the first quarter of 1995 compared with 214 million dirhams (\$58.3 million) in the same period of 1994.

Financial Markets		Jordan Times			
in co-operation with		Cairo Amman Bank			
U.S. Dollar in International Markets					
Currency	New York Close Date: 28/7/95	Tokyo Close Date: 31/7/95			
Sterling Pound*	1.6010	1.6022*			
Deutsche Mark	1.5808	1.5817			
Swiss Franc	1.1488	1.1487*			
French Franc	4.7819	4.7827*			
Japanese Yen	88.11	88.20			
European Currency Unit	1.3460	1.3445*			
** Sterling Opening at 1.60 p.m. GMT					
Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 31/7/1995					
Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS		
U.S. Dollar	5.68	5.68	5.68		
Sterling Pound	6.50	6.62	6.75		
Deutsche Mark	4.31	4.31	4.35		
Swiss Franc	2.37	2.50	2.62		
French Franc	6.21	6.08	5.98		
Japanese Yen	0.62	0.56	0.50		
European Currency Unit	5.88	5.93	5.90		
Interest rate for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.					
Precious Metals Date: 31/7/1995					
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm*	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	383.45	7.50	Gold	5.09	0.120
* 24 Karat					
Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 31/7/1995					
Currency	Bid	Offer			
U.S. Dollar	0.6970	0.6990			
Sterling Pound	1.1155	1.1211			
Deutsche Mark	0.5035	0.5060			
Swiss Franc	0.6055	0.6085			
French Franc	0.1455	0.1462			
Japanese Yen*	0.7874	0.7913			
Dutch Guilder	0.4494	0.4516			
Swedish Krona	***	***			
Italian Lira*	0.0439	0.0441			
Belgian Franc	***	***			
* Per 100					
Other Currencies Date: 31/7/1995					
Currency	Bid	Offer			
Bahraini Dinar	1.8330	1.8450			
Lebanese Lira*	0.042170	0.043070			
Saudi Riyal	0.1855	0.1859			
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3000	2.3600			
Qatari Riyal	0.1902	0.1915			
Egyptian Pound	0.1900	0.2160			
Omani Riyal	1.8010	1.8200			
U.A.E. Dirham	0.1888	0.1901			
Greek Drachma*	0.2150	0.3050			
Cypriot Pound	1.5450	1.6030			
* Per 100					
LONDON EXCHANGE RATES					
LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.					
One U.S. dollar	1.3682/92		Canadian dollar		
	1.3808/18		Deutschmarks		
	1.5472/82		Dutch guilders		
	1.1474/84		Swiss francs		
	28.38/42		Belgian francs		
	4.7788/38		French francs		
	1586.21/2		Italian lire		
	88.01/11		Japanese yen		
	7.0525/25		Swedish crowns		
	6.1200/50		Norwegian crowns		
	5.3680/30		Danish crowns		
One Sterling	1.6018/28		U.S. dollar		
	One ounce of gold	\$383.40/383.90	U.S. dollars		

Banks closer to \$680 m Qatar gas project loan

DUBAI (R) — A \$680 million loan for the Qatar Liquefied Gas Company (Qatargas) will be ready for final syndication by late October, banking sources said on Monday.

The loan will be a major step forward for Qatargas' \$6 billion Qatargas liquefied natural gas (LNG) project, the biggest single project finance scheme in the Middle East.

The loan for the "up-

stream" part of the project will allow Qatargas to install three offshore wellhead platforms and lay a 82 kilometre pipeline which will deliver the field's gas to an onshore liquefaction plant at Ras Laffan, 70 kilometres north of the Qatari capital Doha.

Japanese banks, led by the export-import bank of Japan (Eximbank) and the ministry of trade and industry, signed a \$1.9 billion non recourse project loan to Qatargas in

April to develop the "downstream" part of the project which mainly involves the construction of the liquefaction plant.

Earnings from Qatargas, which will start exporting to Japan in 1997 by exploiting the gas reserves of the massive offshore north field, is central to Qatar's economic future as it crude oil reservoirs mature.

Banking sources said that the terms of the \$680 million

loan are nearly all complete after talks in London over the last two months between the four main banks behind the issue — France's Credit Lyonnais Crédit Pa. and Société Générale Sogn Pa., Britain's Barclays Bank Banc. L. and Bahrain-based Gulf International.

"By September the terms (of the loan) will be finalised which will allow a general syndication by late October," a banker who requested anonymity said.

Qatargas is a joint venture of state Qatar General Petroleum Corporation (QGPC) which holds 65 per cent equity in the project and U.S. Mobil Corp. Mob. N. French Total SA Tote. Pa. (each 10 per cent), Japan's Mitsui and Co. Ltd 8031.T and Marubeni Corp. 8002.T (each 7.5 per cent).

Condensate prices are more vulnerable to volatility in international spot markets and supply contracts are much shorter than those frequently seen in the LNG business.

Qatargas has already secured a four million tonnes a year LNG 25 year supply contract with Chubu Electric Power Company 9502.T and additional sales of two million tonnes year have also been agreed with seven other Japanese utilities.

Qatar owns the third largest reserves of gas in the world with the north field holding an estimated nine trillion cubic metres of gas.

Refinery reports JD 4.9 m profit for '94

AMMAN (AP) — The Jordan Petroleum Refinery Co. Ltd. on Monday reported a profit of JD 4.95 million for last year, up from JD 860,000 from 1993's profits.

The government, which sets the prices of the company's oil products, guarantees the firm's minimum gains and determines the margin of profit distributed to share holders.

Jordan does not have any known oil reserves. It imports 55,000 barrels of crude oil and 25,000 barrels of fuel oil daily from neighbouring Iraq.

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Amman - Rio de Janeiro - Cairo (1996)

Amman / Jordan: Amra Hotel building 6th. Circle P.O.Box 7676 phone 827118 Fax 827119

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET HOUSING BANK CENTER JORDANIAN SECURITIES

ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 31/07/1995



COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED IN JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
ARAB BANK PLC	220	46870	213.000	213.250
JORDAN EAST INVESTMENT BANK	7200	23232	4.190	4.490
MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENT BANK	26550	33846	1.280	1.260
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	13850	3400	2.320	2.520
JORDAN CROP BANK	400	113	2.000	2.057
JORDAN GULF BANK	12650	14209	1.130	1.120
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	1243	46335	3.720	3.740
BUSINESS BANK	2000	7600	3.800	3.800
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	1500	5880	3.920	3.920
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK FOR HOUSING	910	3510	3.000	3.000
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	47200	45792	1.030	1.060
ARAB BANKING CORPORATION/JORDAN	1097	5950	5.300	5.500
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK	4050	6677	1.650	1.640
BANKS SECTOR				

Agassi rallies from first-set loss to beat Sampras, win Canadian Open

MONTREAL (AP) — Andre Agassi won the latest duel with American rival Pete Sampras on Sunday, rallying after a first-set loss to win 3-6, 6-2, 6-3 in a battle of no. 1 vs. No. 2 in the Canadian Open final.

Agassi, 25, defended the title he won last year in Toronto and claimed his third Canadian Open Championship in four years. He is the first repeat winner since Ivan Lendl won three straight Canadian titles from 1987 to 1989.

"This (tournament) means a lot to me," said Agassi, who won the Canadian Open in Toronto last year and has taken three titles in four years.

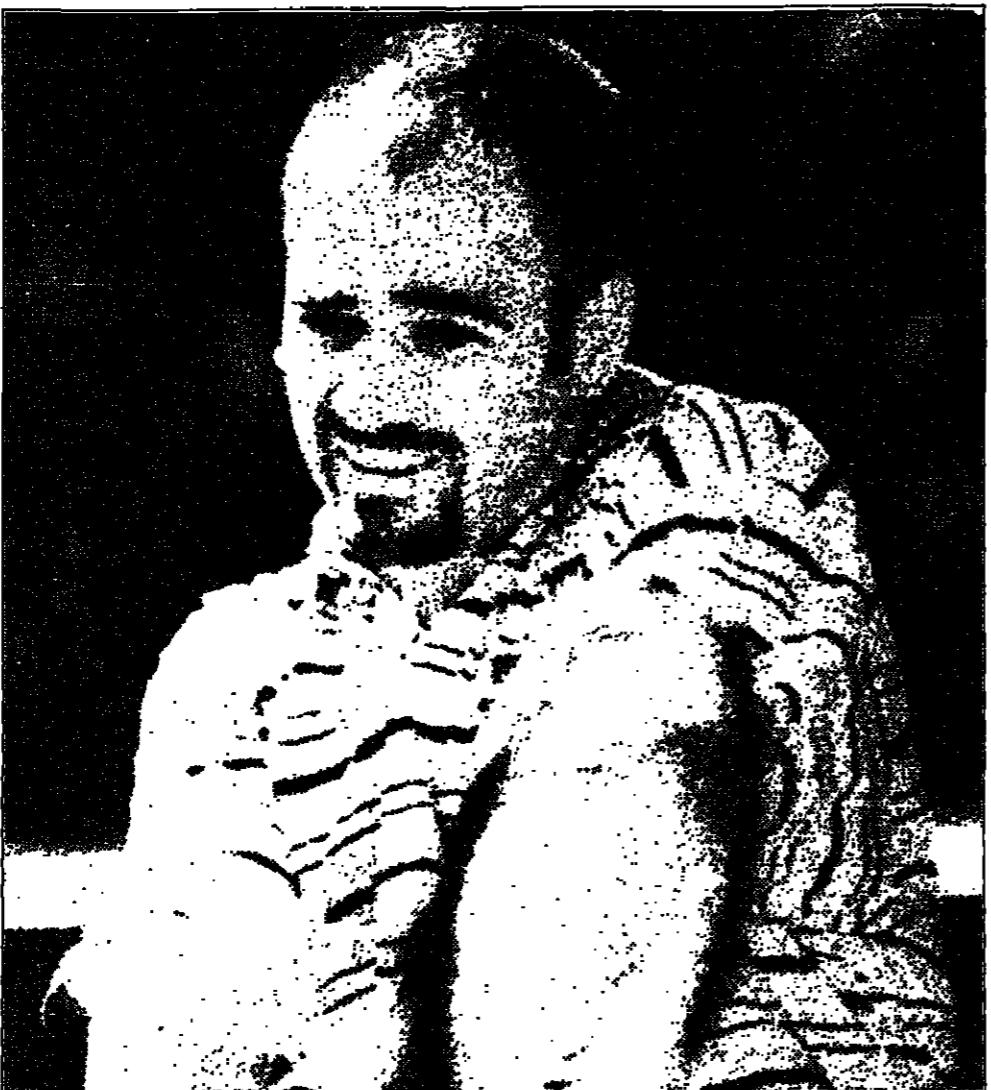
"This is where it started for me last year, it has special meaning for that. And, it's winning tournaments like this that make you No. 1."

The centre court and most of the rest of Jarry Stadium, a former U.S. Major League baseball park, is to be torn down and rebuilt into a bigger, better tennis facility for next year.

The Las Vegas native recorded his 400th career match victory, seventh among active players on the ATP Tour. He ended Sampras' 16-match winning streak, which included a third consecutive Wimbledon title on July 3. Sampras is eighth with 395 wins.

Sampras held the world No. 1 ranking for 82 weeks until he was ousted by Agassi, the reigning U.S. Open and Australian Open champion, on April 10.

It was Agassi's fifth tournament victory this year and



Andre Agassi

second in a row after a win last week in Washington.

Sampras, 23, started quickly on a hot, breezy day before a capacity crowd of 10,011.

He served two aces and a service winner to take the first game at love, then broke Agassi's service for a

4-2 lead that clinched the set. It was the first time Agassi dropped a set in five matches this week.

But Agassi raised his game a notch in the second, while Sampras began to struggle at the service line.

A turning point came in the final set, when Agassi

fought off three break points to hold service for a 4-1 lead.

"I was hitting some big, heavy shots on those break points," Agassi said. "I could see he was taking chances - you have to do that point. But if you let him make it 4-4, Pete's danger-

ous."

The result evened the career matchup between the rivals at eight wins apiece, but Agassi has beaten Sampras in three of four meetings this year.

"After the first set, Andre raised his level and I went down a bit," Sampras said. "I had some chances, but I wasn't aggressive enough and he was dictating the play."

"His serve is basically a shot to get you moving his way. And once he gets you going side to side, he's got you."

Sampras was hardly downcast.

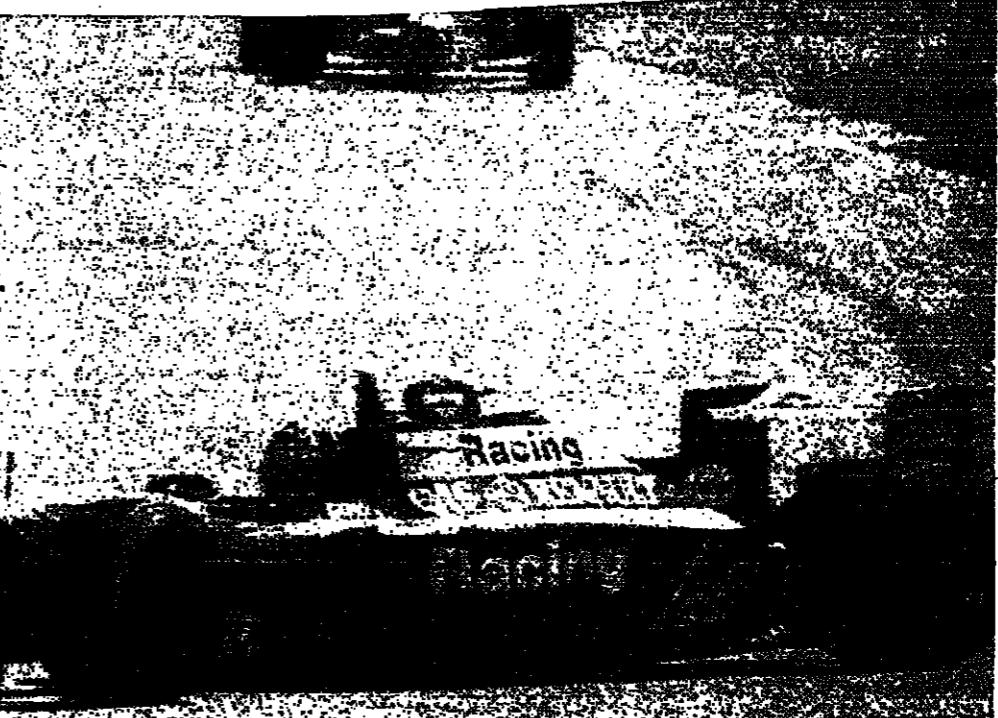
"It was good for me to get to the final, especially after that emotional win in Wimbleton. I'm disappointed. I'm here to win, but this is a good start to the summer (hardcourt season)."

Agassi leads Sampras by 1,016 ATP tour points. Both are next scheduled to play the ATP Championship tournament in Cincinnati in two weeks, a key warmup for the U.S. Open beginning Aug. 29 in New York.

Agassi earned \$254,000 for the victory while Sampras took home \$133,800.

In the doubles final, the fourth-seeded Russian duo of Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Andrei Olshovskiy scored a quick 6-2, 6-2 win over Brian MacPhie of the United States and Sandon Stolle of Australia.

The tournament set a Canadian Open attendance record of 119,927 for the week, eclipsing the previous mark of 118,095 set in 1987 in Montreal.



Briton Damon Hill spins whilst in the lead prior to leaving the track during Sunday's German Formula-One Grand Prix in Hockenheim. Behind is Michael Schumacher (AFP Photo)

Schumacher basks in glory as Hill spins out

HOCKENHEIM, Germany (AP) — Damon Hill will have to drive better if he is to make a credible challenge for Michael Schumacher's Formula One title.

Afghanistan took spinning out in his Williams-Renault barely one lap into the German Grand Prix Sunday. Hill failed to finish his second race in a row.

Schumacher took full advantage of Hill's mistake to win the race in his Benetton-Renault and open a 21-point lead with eight races left in the 17-event Grand Prix season.

With Hill starting from pole position and Schumacher right behind him, Sunday's race had all the makings of an epic thriller.

At the British Grand Prix in Silverstone two weeks ago, Hill tried to overtake Schumacher from the inside in a questionable

manceuvre, rammed the German and took both drivers out of the race.

The collision cooled already frigid relations between the two drivers.

Schumacher clinched last season's world title by one point over Hill, after he crashed into Hill's car in the last race in Australia.

"To me it felt as if the rear brakes came on a bit harder than they had done before. I don't really know, but that is what it felt like to me and it caught me out."

"This is pretty devastating for my championship hopes," Hill said.

In five pole starts this season, Hill has not won a race.

The Briton has two wins,

both of them coming from behind.

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manceuvre, rammed the German and took both drivers out of the race.

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"I was not overdoing it. I

changed down a gear for the bend, then suddenly the back end went away from me. I was pushing hard, trying to pull out an advantage but I must say I've been around that corner enough times this weekend to know whether I'm within the limit or not."

Schumacher, 26, posted a time of one hour, 22 minutes, 56.043 seconds for the 45-lap race on the 6.823-kilometer circuit as he cruised home.

David Coulthard, in the second Williams-Renault, finished second, 5.988 seconds behind Schumacher. Gerhard Berger, the Austrian driving a Ferrari who won here last year, was third, one minute, 8.097 seconds behind.

The gap between Schumacher and Berger would have been greater had Schumacher not made two pit stops for Coulthard's one.

Schumacher said he was amazed when he saw Hill spin out.

"I thought the first corner could be quite slippery and I braked early. There must have been a lot of oil and dust."

"I saw Damon slide sideways and hit the wall and I couldn't believe it," Schumacher said.

It was obvious to West that East had a yarborough. Also, it was more than likely North held both the ace and queen of clubs and that, if necessary, declarer would be able to take a successful finesse for the king.

West had knowledge not available to declarer—the spade suit could not be established for discards. Since no declarer likes to rest the fate of a contract, especially a slam, on a 50-50 chance if any other line was available, West chose the jack of clubs as the opening salvo.

West's reasoning proved impeccable. Since the declarer would if spades were no worse than 4-2, declarer rose with the ace of clubs, drew one round of trumps, then went after spades. Unfortunately, East ruffed the second spade and the defenders collected the king of clubs and ace of diamonds for a two-trick set.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIA HIRSCH
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THE AUCTION TOLD THE STORY

Both vulnerable. North deals.
NORTH
♦ A K 9 8 4
♦ A J 8 5
♦ K Q
♦ A Q
WEST
♦ Q J 10 7 3 ♦ 5
♦ 4
♦ A 9 7
♦ K J 10 2 ♦ 8 7 6 5 3
EAST
♦ 6 2
♦ 3 2
♦ 8 6 5 4 2
♦ K 10 9 8 7 6
♦ J 10 3
SOUTH
♦ 6 2
♦ K 10 9 8 7 6
♦ J 10 3
♦ 9 4
The bidding:
North East South West
2 ♦ Pass 2 ♦ Pass 2 ♦ Pass 2 ♦ Pass

Opening lead: ♦ 4
We have often written about how important it is to choose the right opening lead. Put yourself in West's place and decided what you would lead if trick one and why.

North's opening bid was artificial

and strong, and South's response

was positive, showing at least a five-

card suit headed by two of the three top honors. North elected to show

the spades first to indicate a source

of tricks, then took control when

partner rebid hearts and settled in a small slam on learning that an ace

was missing.

It was obvious to West that East had a yarborough. Also, it was more

than likely North held both the ace

and queen of clubs and that, if nec-

essary, declarer would be able to

take a successful finesse for the king.

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Tennis top rankings

Paris (AFP) — ATP tennis rankings published on Monday:

1. Andre Agassi - 5161 pts
2. Pete Sampras - 4145
3. Thomas Muster - 3667
4. Boris Becker - 3598
5. Michael Chang - 3064
6. Kafelnikov 2676
7. Goran Ivanisevic - 2660
8. Wayne Ferreira - 2252
9. Michael Stich - 2232
10. Sergi Bruguera - 2123
11. Marc Rosset - 2068
12. Magnus Larsson - 1840

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Olajuwon and O'Neal named to head 1996 U.S. Olympic squad

NEW YORK (AP) - Lenny Wilkens got his "Dream Team" on Sunday, and he wants this squad to be as distinctive as the one that rolled to the gold medal in Barcelona in 1992.

An assistant coach of the original Dream Team, Wilkens sidesteps the subject of which might be the better squad — the original with Magic Johnson and Michael Jordan or the new one with Hakeem Olajuwon and Shaquille O'Neal.

"I'm a little partial to the first team," Wilkens said Sunday. "I don't think you'll see a team like that again. Each team will make its mark. We're going to go out there and be U.S. and not somebody else. We're not going to try to compete with what that team did."

USA Basketball made most of the team roster official Sunday, announcing a squad that includes four players from the 1992 team and one naturalized U.S. citizen.

Named to the first 10 of 12 spots were: Orlando guard Anfernee Hardaway, Detroit forward Grant Hill, Utah forward Karl Malone, Indiana guard Reggie Miller, Houston centre Hakeem Olajuwon, Orlando centre Shaquille O'Neal, Chicago forward Scottie Pippen, San Antonio centre David Robinson, Milwaukee for-

ward Glenn Robinson and Utah guard John Stockton.

Malone, Pippen and Stockton were on the original dream team, as was Robinson, who also won a bronze medal in the 1988 games, the last all-collegiate national team.

The other two roster spots will be filled next year, probably in the spring.

One of them could be given to Magic Johnson, who recently announced he would not come out of retirement and rejoin the Los Angeles Lakers. Johnson has expressed a desire to play in the Olympics a second time.

The announcement Sunday came on a nationally televised broadcast, and represented a welcome change of pace for the NBA, which has locked out its players and been unable to reach a labour agreement with the players' union.

The selection of this Olympic team was largely without the controversy that surrounded the makeup of the 1992 team, when Detroit's Isiah Thomas was not included and Michael Jordan had to be persuaded to take part.

This time, Michael Jordan said early on he didn't want to be considered for a spot, and there were no glaring omissions. Passed over were three members of the world

championship team, Charlotte's Larry Johnson, New Jersey's Derrick Coleman and Seattle's Shawn Kemp.

Following last year's world championships in Toronto, USA Basketball officials quietly made it known they were displeased with the unsportsmanlike and unseemly behavior by some players of the gold medal team, and those players wouldn't be invited to Atlanta.

Wilkens may not want to make any comparisons, but that does not mean his players will follow suit.

"This Dream Team could take on all the other dream teams put together," said O'Neal, a member of the 1994 U.S. world championship team, known as Dream Team II.

"This team is really deep, more so even than Dream Team II," Miller said. "We are really strong in the centre position, with Hakeem, David and Shaq. We have two of the greatest point guards in Penny and Stockton, and we have the most talented three (small forward) in the game today in Scottie Pippen."

Olajuwon was named to the team after waging a long campaign with FIBA to be declared eligible to compete for his adopted country.



Houston Rockets' star Hakeem Olajuwon

English clubs' financial health declines

LONDON (R) - The financial health of English soccer clubs is in decline, even though they are generating record turnover.

The accounting firm Touche Ross said its annual survey of football club accounts showed that while professional clubs' turnover rose 20 per cent to £387 million (£618.3 million) in 1993/94, the clubs generated

profit of only £12,000 (\$19,170).

Most profits are being generated by Premier League sides, with clubs in lower divisions posting average losses of £416,000 (\$664,600) — up from average losses of £379,000 (£605,500) in 1992/93.

"The gap between the top clubs and those in the lower divisions is getting wider,"

said Gerry Boon, chairman of the Touche Ross Football industry team.

Only 39 per cent of all clubs posted operating profits in 1993/94, down from 41 per cent the previous year.

"The costs of running a football club have increased significantly, due principally

to a substantial increase in players' wages and salaries," said Boon.

Players' wages and salaries totalled £140 million (\$223.7 million) in 1993/94, swallowing 55 per cent of the total turnover of all professional clubs.

Players' earnings rose 19 per cent in 1993/94. Transfer fees rose to a record £92

million (\$147 million) from £73 million (\$116.6 million) the previous season.

Higher wages and salaries in the Premier League are having a "knock-off effect" throughout the game, Boon said. But unless clubs in the lower divisions greatly develop their off-field activities they may be unable to support the wages and salaries.

IAAF appears certain to halve 4-year doping ban

GOTHENBURG, Sweden (R) - The International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) looks certain this week to halve its four-year ban for serious doping offences after a series of challenges in the civil courts.

The IAAF council has

tended to be lost and rules that are impossible to enforce."

The IAAF is keen to emphasise that a minimum two-year ban brings athletics in line with other sports but officials admit legal problems have played a major role.

Some of the IAAF's medical experts have consistently opposed the four-year ban and believe expanding out-of-competition testing is a more effective way of catching cheats.

German officials, battle-hardened by two doping scandals involving former double world sprint champion Krabbe in 1992, put a proposal to the congress in Stuttgart two years ago to reduce the penalties because they were not practical. The congress rejected the idea.

The mood of the debate is likely to be less passionate and more practical in Gothenburg, especially in view of the council's support of the idea which has been officially proposed by Russia.

"Some delegates believe that the IAAF has to be responsible and realistic in its recommendations and have enforceable rules," IAAF General Secretary Istvan Gyulai said.

"Being passionate about doping is one thing. But some say there is no point in having law suits that are des-

left to the discretion of a country such as Britain if they wanted to maintain the four years. It could even be longer. There is no upper limit."

IAAF officials admit, however, that some countries might find it hard to ban their athletes from competing for four years while doping offenders from other nations were returning to action after two years.

They also concede that an athlete banned for four years is less likely to return to competition than one who is out of the sport for just two seasons.

The congress will also discuss a German proposal to force athletes to prove they have undergone at least two out-of-competition drug tests in the build-up to major championships before they are allowed to compete.

The IAAF is keen to make sure the proposal is enforceable in all countries. Athletes from the less developed world could be in danger of missing championships, simply because their country does not have an efficient testing programme.

One dead, dozens injured at Jakarta soccer match

JAKARTA (AFP) - Police said Monday that one man died during the Dunhill soccer final here Sunday night, while press reports blamed dozens more injuries on stone-throwing.

The daily Bisnis Indonesia also reported that dozens were injured due to stone-throwing between supporters during a match watched by a crowd of 120,000.

Police and security officers at the Senayan Stadium refused to confirm the number of people injured.

One of the stadium's gates burned down before the match in a fire caused by cigarette butts, a stadium security officer said.

The Persib team from Bandung, West Java, already had a heart condition, said police sergeant Sutrisno, refusing to comment on newspaper reports that the man was trampled on his way out of the



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Syria says it will not be pressured into deal with Israel

Rabin doubts agreement could be reached before November elections

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria on Monday criticised Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin for casting doubt on prospects for peace before elections in Israel in 1996.

Meanwhile, Syria's Army Chief Lieutenant-General Hikmat Shihabi was quoted as saying Damascus could not be pressured into signing a peace accord with Israel which would harm its sovereignty.

A Syrian official said Mr. Rabin's remarks doubting a peace deal with Syria before Israeli elections showed that he has not yet taken a decision to make peace.

"Rabin's remarks were based on the knowledge of his own position refusing to meet the requirements of a just and comprehensive peace," the official told Reuters.

"Rabin has not yet taken a decision to make a peace and that is why he is doubting an early agreement," he said.

"As far as Syria we said peace could be achieved in days if Israel agrees to full withdrawal from the Golan Heights and to implement balanced and equal security

arrangements which would ensure security and peace to all," the official added.

Mr. Rabin told his ministers on Sunday that he doubted a peace deal could be reached with Syria before elections in Israel due by November 1996.

"He said he had serious doubts over the chance of reaching an agreement with the Syrians before the elections," Mr. Rabin's spokesman Aliza Goren told Reuters.

Mr. Rabin made the remarks at the weekly cabinet meeting during a discussion on cuts in the 1996 state budget.

He said implementing peace deals with Israel's Arab neighbours, including the PLO, would require extra funds but no agreement with Syria was expected.

Mr. Rabin, who is also

defence minister, supported the budget cuts which the cabinet approved.

Israel's planned troop redeployment in the West Bank, part of its 1993 peace deal with the PLO, is expected to cost hundreds of millions of dollars.

The official Al Baath newspaper quoted Gen. Shihabi as saying in an interview to mark the country's Army Day that peace in the region could never be achieved without Syria.

He said Damascus would not submit to the "pressure of time" to rush for solutions "which might harm its sovereignty or dignity."

"Syria will not fall at any stage under the pressure of haste, the running out of time or elections which might be held here or there," he said.

The arrangements include the establishment of early

warning systems, definition of the demilitarised zones and the deployment of peacekeeping troops.

Syrian officials have said Damascus had strongly refused Israeli demands for the setting of a ground Israeli early warning station on the Golan and proposed aerial surveillance instead.

They said Damascus had refused to send its military experts back to Washington until Israel lifts its demand for the ground station and until an agreement on any item on the agenda of the talks is reached.

Israel placed obstacles on the way of the military talks, made up problems and changed the priorities. As long as Israel maintains this policy of delusion, progress in the peace process would be impossible," Gen. Shihabi said.

Mr. Shihabi added, "Syria has acted against its own interests and shot itself in the foot." Mr. Peres said on the Israeli Radio, adding that Damascus has "violated agreements made with the United States to continue talks between military experts."

But Mr. Peres said it would not be "useful to present Syria with an ultimatum."

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Sunday that Syria has "shot itself in the foot" by refusing to continue military talks with Israel.

"Meetings between military experts would be useless because they cannot negotiate without an agreement on security measures," he said in Damascus.

Mr. Shihabi rejected Israeli accusations that Syria was to blame for the deadlock in peace talks because of its reluctance to send military experts to Washington.

"These are false accusations, because we are ready to send experts if we reach an accord on at least one part of the security arrangements, such as the warning stations," he said.

The foreign minister added there was no word of a possible new regional shuttle by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to coax Israel and Syria back to the negotiating table.

Mr. Christopher said on July 16 in Damascus that talks between the two countries would resume "within a week or two" at the ambassadorial level.

Iraq urge U.N. to finish disarmament mission by August

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq on Monday urged the U.N. Disarmament Commission to finish its work by the end of August and warned that any delay would be seen as an unacceptable ploy to extend the economic sanctions.

Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarming Iraq, is due in Baghdad on Friday to determine whether Iraq has fulfilled a promise to provide a full and final report on its germ warfare programme.

"The accord with Mr. Ekeus called for verification of information provided by Iraq on its biological weapons not to exceed the end of August, the official Jomhuriya newspaper said.

Kurds accept U.S. mediation

NICOSIA (AFP) — The two main feuding Kurdish factions in northern Iraq have accepted a U.S. plan for peace talks next week in Lisbon, Kurdish officials said Monday.

"The Americans suggested the two parties meet in Lisbon for peace talks," Bruska Shaways, a senior official of the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP), told AFP by telephone from northern Iraq.

"We accepted to demonstrate our goodwill and will send a delegation consisting of members of our political bureau," he said.

The rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) accepted the U.S. offer for talks last week.

The meeting is scheduled for August 9 through August 11 in the Portuguese capital, and would be the first between the two sides' political bureaus in seven months.

The two groups, which have controlled northern Iraq in defiance of Baghdad since the end of the 1991 Gulf war, are locked in a bitter struggle for power and over tax revenue.

More than 2,000 people have been killed since the fighting erupted in May 1994, according to Kurdish sources.

Egypt to try 29 militants

CAIRO (R) — A Cairo state security court will try 29 suspected Muslim militants next week on charges of killing three policemen and wounding six in the southern province of Aswan in 1993, court sources said on Monday.

The trial of the accused, five of whom are on the run, will open on Saturday, they said.

The men are also accused of joining an illegal group that aims to overthrow the government by accusing the president of heresy and plotting to assassinate public figures.

The sources said the militants belong to Egypt's largest armed Islamic group, Al Gamal Al Islamiyah (Islamic Group), which has been fighting a low-level guerrilla against police in southern provinces for the past three years.

Iraqi opposition questions credibility of amnesty

DUBAI (AFP) — Iraqi opposition members on Monday warned against responding to an amnesty announced by President Saddam Hussein's government for those charged with political crimes.

What he (Saddam) announced is worthless. He has already announced a dozen amnesties without respecting them since 1979," when he became president of Iraq, according to Qassem Ghazi, an opposition member living in London.

"All those who believed his promises ended up regretting it," Mr. Ghazi, who works for the Iraqi National Congress newspaper Al Mutamar, told AFP by telephone.

He said President Saddam has since 1991 sent envoys to persuade exiled opponents to return to Iraq.

"Two exiled opposition members in Algeria, Khalil Jazaeri and Khaled Al Salam, believed them. They returned in 1992, following an official accord signed by the Iraqi ambassador in Algiers," he said.

"The first was imprisoned and executed as soon as he arrived in Baghdad and the second was able to flee towards the northern areas," he said.

Sudan to carry out census of refugees

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan is to count the number of refugees from neighbouring countries it is hosting in a bid to clear up disputes with the United Nations and aid organisations over the figure, Omdurman state radio reported on Monday.

The radio said the cabinet ordered the census in a meeting on Sunday chaired by President Omar Hassan Al Bashir.

The number is a matter of dispute between Sudanese authorities and the U.N. voluntary agencies and the countries of origin.

Interior Minister Brigadier Al Tayeb Ibrahim Mohammad Khair told the cabinet Sudan had hosted more than one million refugees from other African countries over the past three decades.

Mr. Khair said 20 per cent of all African refugees, or the equivalent of three per cent of the world refugee population, were in Sudan, Africa's largest country in area but one of its most impoverished. He called on the internation-

al community to increase aid to the refugees.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) does not believe the number in Sudan is so high but it has not come up with an alternative figure.

Sudan says there are about 500,000 Eritrean and 300,000 Ethiopian refugees on its territory but its two neighbours say Sudan has exaggerated the figures.

Some aid agencies have accused Sudan of raising the number as a ploy to get more international aid.

Sudan has dismissed the charge and says the refugees have damaged the environment in eastern Sudan, where most of their camps are.

Sudan has complained of lack of aid for the refugees. A decade ago it used to receive about \$40 million a year but now gets just over \$9 million.

The UNHCR puts the decline down to the return home of many refugees and the increase in the number of refugees worldwide, which has put a strain on donors.

it will be difficult to predict a progress in the peace process or the establishment of a peace capable of survival in this region," Gen. Shihabi said.

Syria and Israel have reached no agreement in about four years of sporadic peace negotiations.

The talks are stalled over the fate of the Golan Heights, a strategic plateau Israel captured in the 1967 Middle East war, security arrangements and future ties.

Gen. Shihabi and his Israeli opposite number Lieutenant-General Amnon Shahak discussed during talks in Washington in June security arrangements which would back up a proposed Israeli withdrawal from the Golan but they reached no agreement.

The arrangements include the establishment of early

warning systems, definition of the demilitarised zones and the deployment of peacekeeping troops.

Syrian officials have said

Damascus had strongly refused Israeli demands for the setting of a ground Israeli early warning station on the Golan and proposed aerial surveillance instead.

They said Damascus had refused to send its military experts back to Washington until Israel lifts its demand for the ground station and until an agreement on any item on the agenda of the talks is reached.

Israel placed obstacles on the way of the military talks, made up problems and changed the priorities. As long as Israel maintains this policy of delusion, progress in the peace process would be impossible," Gen. Shihabi said.

Mr. Shihabi added, "Syria has acted against its own interests and shot itself in the foot." Mr. Peres said on the Israeli Radio, adding that Damascus has "violated agreements made with the United States to continue talks between military experts."

But Mr. Peres said it would not be "useful to present Syria with an ultimatum."

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Sharra on Sunday ruled out a meeting of Syrian

and Israeli military experts until the two countries agree in principle on security arrangements for the Golan Heights.

Meetings between military experts would be useless because they cannot negotiate without an agreement on security measures," he said in

Damascus.

Mr. Sharra rejected Israeli

accusations that Syria was to blame for the deadlock in peace talks because of its reluctance to send military experts to Washington.

"These are false accusations, because we are ready to send experts if we reach an accord on at least one part of the security arrangements, such as the warning stations," he said.

The foreign minister added there was no word of a possible new regional shuttle by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to coax Israel and Syria back to the negotiating table.

Mr. Christopher said on July 16 in Damascus that talks between the two countries would not make any comment. Marcos Jr was convicted on four counts of failure to pay taxes and four counts of failing to declare his income from 1982 to 1989 when he was governor of northern Ilocos Norte province while his father was still in power. The unpaid taxes involved a total 8,500 pesos (\$331), including 107 pesos (\$4) for 1982. "It was not out of sheer ignorance, or innocence or neglect that he failed to (pay the taxes)," Judge Benedicto Ulep said when handing down his ruling.

"The length of time that he failed to do so indicates that his omission was wilful, intentional and deliberate," he said. Mr. Marcos, a former congressman, failed to win a Senate seat in last May's congressional election.

Mr. Christopher said on

July 16 in Damascus that talks between the two countries would resume "within a week or two" at the ambassadorial level.

These are false accusations, because we are ready to send experts if we reach an accord on at least one part of the security arrangements, such as the warning stations," he said.

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COLUMN 10

Marcos Jr gets 9 years' jail for tax evasion

MANILA (R) — The only son of late President Ferdinand Marcos was sentenced to nine years' jail Monday for evading taxes of 8,500 pesos (\$331) in the latest blow to a family that once ruled the Philippines like a fiefdom. A suburban Quezon City court found the 38-year-old former congressman guilty of tax evasion and ordered his immediate arrest after he failed to appear for the sentencing.

His bail of 200,000 pesos (\$7,800) bond was also cancelled. Court appeals said there will be an appeal against the decision. A family spokeswoman said Marcos Jr was abroad. His mother, former first lady Imelda Marcos, who is facing an 18-year jail term for corruption, was not present.

The foreign minister added there was no word of a possible new regional shuttle by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to coax Israel and Syria back to the negotiating table.

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